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5 Leaders in Kosovo 'Executed,' NATO Asserts

Air War 'Long Way From Over,' Clark Warns

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The top NATO military commander warned Monday that the air war against Serbian forces in Yugoslavia was far from over as President Boris Yeltsin of Russia dispatched his prime minister to Belgrade to try to halt the fighting and as France also said that it was seeking a diplomatic solution.

General Wesley Clark, the NATO commander, said: "This is a campaign that is a long way from being over militarily. We knew it was not going to

be a three- or four-day, one- or two-bomb affair."

Backing up those words, a Pentagon official said Monday that five B-1 bombers had been ordered to deploy to Europe to join the NATO air strikes.

President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia is accelerating an offensive to "cleanse" Kosovo of its ethnic Albanian majority, General Clark said.

"He's working very, very fast," General Clark told Reuters Television News, "trying to present the world with a fait accompli, to change the demographics of Kosovo. He's doing this

very quickly."

U.S. officials also warned that the operation was open-ended. "We are in what could be the early part of this," said Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman.

General Clark said NATO aircraft were now able to "operate through" Yugoslav air defenses. "We know he is worried about NATO air," General Clark said of Mr. Milosevic. "He has changed his operational patterns on the ground in response to it."

As air attacks in Serbia and Kosovo entered their sixth day, Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia prepared

to go to Belgrade to seek "an immediate halt" to the air strikes. (Page 4)

President Jacques Chirac said France was simultaneously working for a diplomatic solution. "This action needs time and determination," Mr. Chirac said of the NATO offensive, adding that its objective was "to reduce President Milosevic's means of repression."

In the meantime, France wants to seek a diplomatic solution, Mr. Chirac added. "We are working on it relentlessly. France, which sponsored the Rambouillet meeting, continues to take initiatives for peace," he said. He did not elaborate on exactly what measures the French government was pursuing diplomatically.

James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said Washington welcomed any diplomatic efforts that lead to a halt to Belgrade's offensive and that persuade President Milosevic to "comply with his international commitments."

But he made it clear that NATO would continue its air assault "until such time as President Milosevic halts his offensive and commits to a settlement based on the Rambouillet ac-



Fehmi Agani at the Kosovo peace negotiations in France in February.

The Victims Include Aide At Meetings In France

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — NATO officials said Monday that five prominent ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, including Fehmi Agani, a member of the delegation to peace talks in France this winter, had been "executed."

The alliance's military spokesman, Air Commodore David Wilby of Britain, said at a news conference that reliable sources had reported that, apart from Mr. Agani, four other prominent ethnic Albanians had been put to death Sunday.

The victims included, he said, Baton Haxhiu, editor in chief of the main Kosovo Albanian newspaper, Koha Ditore.

Commodore Wilby added that the killings took place after the ethnic Albanian leaders attended the funeral of Bajram Kelmendi, a lawyer who was shot and killed by Serbian police officers. They dumped his body in the street along with those of his two sons on the first night of NATO air strikes last Wednesday.

Albanian sources named two others of those killed as Alush Gashi, an adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, an ethnic Albanian leader, and Din Mehmeti, a writer.

Albanian journalists denounced the killings and the suppression of the media by Yugoslav authorities. "It's fascism," said one journalist.

Scores of executions by members of the Serbian Army and paramilitary units were also reported in the towns of Suva Reka and Landovica in the south and Mitrovica in the north.

NATO reported during the weekend that Mr. Rugova was in hiding after his house was burned down. The alliance has accused Yugoslav authorities of targeting ethnic Albanian intellectuals in Kosovo.

The Pristina offices of the newspaper Koha Ditore were wrecked soon after the start of the air campaign and the caretaker murdered, according to ethnic Albanian sources.

Mr. Agani, 66, who was part of the Kosovo Albanian delegation to peace talks in Rambouillet, near Paris, in February, was a sociology professor and member of the Kosovo academy.

He was one of five founder members of the Democratic League of Kosovo, headed by Mr. Rugova, and coordinator of a previous team for peace negotiations that had several meetings with Western mediators.

He was close to Mr. Rugova, but respected by all political groups, ethnic Albanians said. (Reuters, AFP)

Racing to the Rescue

As Enemy Closed In, Elite U.S. Team Flew To Scene and Picked Up Downed Stealth Pilot

By Dana Priest
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It had been dark for an hour when the Stealth F-117A Nighthawk fighter-bomber flew over Budanovci, a Serbian village like many of the others in the Fruska Gora hills northwest of Belgrade.

As the plane passed over the hazardous, scrubby terrain — the perfect hiding place for anti-aircraft weapons — an SA-3 missile roared through the sky and did the unthinkable: It struck a plane that was designed to be nearly invisible.

The plane crashed, and orange flames jumped into the Saturday night sky. The pilot, through luck or skill, escaped and found a hiding place on the ground.

It was 8:45, and the pilot of the NATO plane teamed with the Nighthawk was urgently calling in the hit to the air operations command center, which relayed the bad news through secure radio frequencies to the dozens of NATO pilots in the area.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav troops, aware they had scored the first hit on a North Atlantic Treaty Organization aircraft in the air war, were moving in. Fast.

In Italy, U.S. Air Force Special Operations team of paratroopers, so elite that there are only 400 of them

among the 363,500 personnel in the Air Force, went into action.

Outfitted head to toe in black and carrying an extra camouflage uniform in case they needed to blend into the Yugoslav terrain in daylight, the rescuers waited for word from the pilot.

It apparently came sometime shortly after midnight when the pilot, having been in hiding for about three and a half hours, got a message through to the rescuers: There were troops in the area, and they were closing in.

"It was really a race between the rescuers and the Yugoslav Army," said a senior Pentagon official, one of several officials who provided details of the rescue on condition they not be named. "There were enemy in the area, and the rescuers were making an aggressive attempt to rescue him."

The Yugoslavs had an intimate knowledge of the terrain on their side. The Air Force rescuers had training and equipment on theirs.

The Special Operations troops who jumped from the sky to rescue the lone pilot were some of the U.S. military's most highly trained commandos.

Trained at the U.S. Air Force Pararescue School at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, their primary mission is combat rescue, the art of infiltrating

See RESCUE, Page 10

Nosedive of Euro Tests Resolve of ECB

Tietmeyer Expresses Concern and Some Analysts Foresee Further Dips

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The euro slipped to fresh lows Monday, and Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, expressed concern and vowed that the European Central Bank would pursue a "lastingly strong and stable euro."

"The euro must try to gain the strength of its predecessors and, above all, must win confidence and a reputation of its own," Mr. Tietmeyer said Monday night in a speech in the Dutch city of Utrecht, according to an advance text of the remarks.

The new currency, which the 11-nation euro bloc launched in January, has cascaded to a succession of new lows since its inception. At its weakest point Monday, it fell to \$1.0680 from its previous record low Friday just above \$1.0800. That is nearly 10 percent under its peak of \$1.1837 on Jan. 4, its first day of trading.

At 3 P.M. in New York, the euro was quoted at \$1.0737.

Some currency market experts note that the main constituent currencies of the euro — including the Deutsche mark and the French franc — are still above their levels against the dollar of about a

year ago, and thus the euro itself is not weak by some measures. But others say they think the euro could be headed for a period of further declines and prolonged weakness.

A further slump in the euro amounts to a test of nerves for the newly minted European Central Bank, economists concur. With the credibility of Europe's most ambitious integration project at stake, the ECB is certain to find a point where it must draw the line.

"The euro and its institutions are still too green and too short of credibility for the ECB to ignore such a development," said Adolf Rosenstock, economist in Frankfurt for Nomura International.

Analysts predict the three-month-old currency will slip to \$1.05 or lower, which translates to a dollar rate of 1.86 Deutsche marks — a level of weakness that the Bundesbank historically defended, said Gerhard Grebe, analyst in Frankfurt for Bank Julius Baer AG. Mr. Rosenstock sees the euro headed as low as \$1.03.

In his speech in Utrecht, Mr. Tietmeyer appeared resigned to the factors that inflate the dollar's value, such as the "special international developments" in Kosovo and the "unexpectedly strong economic performance" in the

United States.

But while he warned against panic, he vowed to monitor the euro's well-being. "Composure is appropriate, but disregard is not," he said.

"We in the ECB do not pursue an

See EURO, Page 14

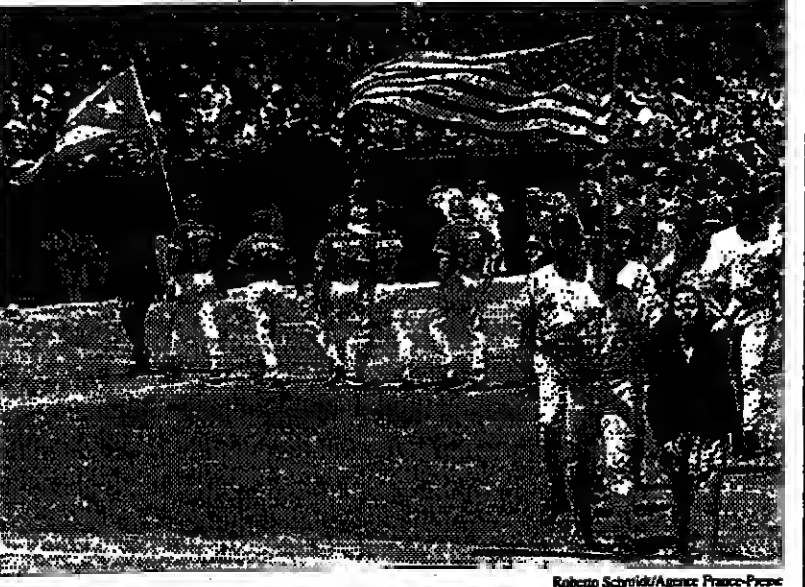
AGENDA

Guilty Plea Is Planned In Italy Ski-Cable Case

A U.S. Marine navigator whose jet cut a ski gondola cable in Italy last year has agreed to plead guilty to obstruction and conspiracy charges, a military spokesman said Monday at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, was accused of destroying a videotape that he shot before his EA-6B Prowler hit the gondola cable, killing 20 people. Page 4.

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The IHT on-line: www.ihl.com



BASEBALL DETENTE — The Baltimore Orioles and their Cuban opponents leaving the field after the playing of the U.S. and Cuban national anthems in Havana. The Orioles won, 3-2, in 11 innings. Page 20.

Facing Huge Debt Payments, Russia Reaches Loan Accord With IMF

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, capping a long negotiation with the International Monetary Fund, announced Monday that the IMF would resume lending to Russia.

Officials said the money would cover \$4.8 billion in Russian debts to the Fund this year.

Mr. Primakov's announcement followed a three and a half hour meeting with the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, and represented an

important victory for Mr. Primakov, who has been striving to keep Russia from a more serious default on its sovereign debts.

Mr. Camdessus left Moscow without commenting on the deal, and a joint communiqué issued by both sides stopped short of saying the money would be disbursed. Rather, following past practice, it said that agreement had been reached on sending a full-scale IMF delegation to Moscow next week to work out an economic program, which would then be submitted to the IMF board of directors for approval.

"I can say we have agreed about cooperation, agreed that we will be offered a loan and that next week a full mission will come which will complete the preparation of documents," Mr. Primakov told a news conference.

The statement said Russia and the Fund had agreed that Russia's budget surplus, after interest expenses, would be 2 percent. The IMF had been seeking 3.5 percent, but Russia said it could not cut spending that far. The statement said both sides had agreed "on most of the measures needed to achieve this."

Mr. Camdessus, who made a whirlwind tour of Russian business and political leaders, said in the statement that the IMF would "continue its constructive cooperation with Russia," and Russia promised to do likewise.

The statement was especially significant for Mr. Primakov, who has staked much of his political standing on the goal of winning an agreement from the fund in the face of skepticism among many western economists and policymakers.

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Newsstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD
Cyprus	€ 1.00
Denmark	17 DKR
Finland	12.00 FM
Gibraltar	€ 0.85
Great Britain	£1.00
Jordan	1,250 JD
Kuwait	700 FK
Malta	55 c
Nigeria	12,500 N
Oman	1,250 OR
Qatar	10.00 QR
Saudi Arabia	IR €1.10
Singapore	€ 1.00
Spain	€ 1.00
Switzerland	1,250 SFR
Taiwan	1,250 NT
Thailand	1,250 THB
U.S.	\$1.20
U.K.	£1.00
Zimbabwe	2,500 Z\$

Fleeing the Battles / 'If It Is Not the Bombs, It Is the Guns'

Fierce Fighting Rages All Over Kosovo, Refugees Say

By Carlotta Gall
New York Times Service

OHRID, Macedonia — The separatist rebels in Kosovo are holding out surprisingly well against an apparent major Serbian offensive in Kosovo, despite losses and a shortage of ammunition, foreign military observers in Macedonia say.

With reports of killings of civilians and with refugees fleeing from Kosovo, there is also a serious military battle going on. The 1,400 foreign observers for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who had been sent in to help maintain the former ceasefire, left before the NATO bombing began. Since that time, Serbian forces apparently have concentrated on trying to defeat the Kosovo Liberation Army, the rebel group.

The government troops have reportedly pushed ahead with unexpected energy, apparently to try to gain an advantage before the NATO bombing takes too great a toll on their forces in Kosovo.

The reports emerging from Kosovo as late as Sunday indicated that fierce fighting has been raging all over the Serbian province, in particular in areas just north of the capital, Pristina — around the towns of Podujevo, Mitrovica and the heartland of rebel territory, Drenica. Heavy fighting has also been reported around Dakovica and Suva Reka, in southwestern Kosovo.

Civilians fleeing Kosovo into Macedonia on Sunday said that firefights had been taking place in the towns, including Pristina, and Prizren, in the south. Aghim Vucica, a philologist professor at Pristina University, said he escaped by car, his children crying in the back seat. "All you hear is the fighting," he said. "If it is not the bombs, it is the guns — every moment, you do not know what is happening. It is worse than hell."

Serbian forces have apparently succeeded in the last few days in taking at least two rebel command centers — Lapastica, near Podujevo, and Likovac, in central Drenica. Journalists from the rebel news agency, Kosova Press, say that the troops have been using MiG fighter planes to bomb areas in Kosovo and have moved more tanks into the areas evacuated by the rebels.

But the rebels say their commanders have so far evaded capture, and the rebel group has continued its resistance, moving its various headquarters and keeping the command structure intact.

"Their coherence has improved massively since last year," said a military observer from the European group's Kosovo Verification Mission, who maintained contact with rebel leaders even after the monitors were withdrawn from Kosovo more than a week ago. Members of the monitoring group spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The fact that they have lasted this long, that their command and control is still intact, is proof," he said.

"They have protected refugees to some extent, and have managed to keep the Serbs off," he said. He gave as an example a situation in central Drenica

where the Serbian advance has reportedly come within about 1.5 kilometers of thousands of refugees in several villages. He said that, based on conversations with the rebels, they had delayed the Serbian advance by a week, winning some time for the refugees.

There were now signs that some parts of the rebel group are breaking up their battalions into units of four to five men and sending them off on search-and-destroy missions against the police and army supply convoys.

If the rebels adopt this sort of classic insurgency tactics, and even take the battle to the towns, it could serve as a painful irritant to the government forces, the observers say. In the past, the rebels have largely confined their activity to villages and rural areas, while the government has maintained control of larger towns.

As Yugoslavia's forces are weakened by NATO bombing and are cut off from supplies and reinforcements from elsewhere in Serbia, which is the main enemy in Yugoslavia, they and the rebels are likely to become more evenly matched, the monitors said. Then, if the rebels manage to keep going, the two sides could arrive at a stalemate. The rebels "could never win, but a stalemate would be a victory," one monitor said.

Morale appears to be high among the rebels. The chief of staff of the rebels, contacted by telephone Sunday, admitted losing some territory, but immediately vowed to win it back.

The rebels "will fight harder to regain the ground they have lost," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said the rebel group "is not losing the war and it will never lose. It will continue the war until freedom."

He said there had been heavy fighting

around Suva Reka and Prizren and that civilians were being forced out of the area. He said government forces were apparently forcing residents to flee by burning villages to deprive the rebels of the support of the local population, but also to depopulate Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians had been 90 percent of the population, so the government could control it more easily.

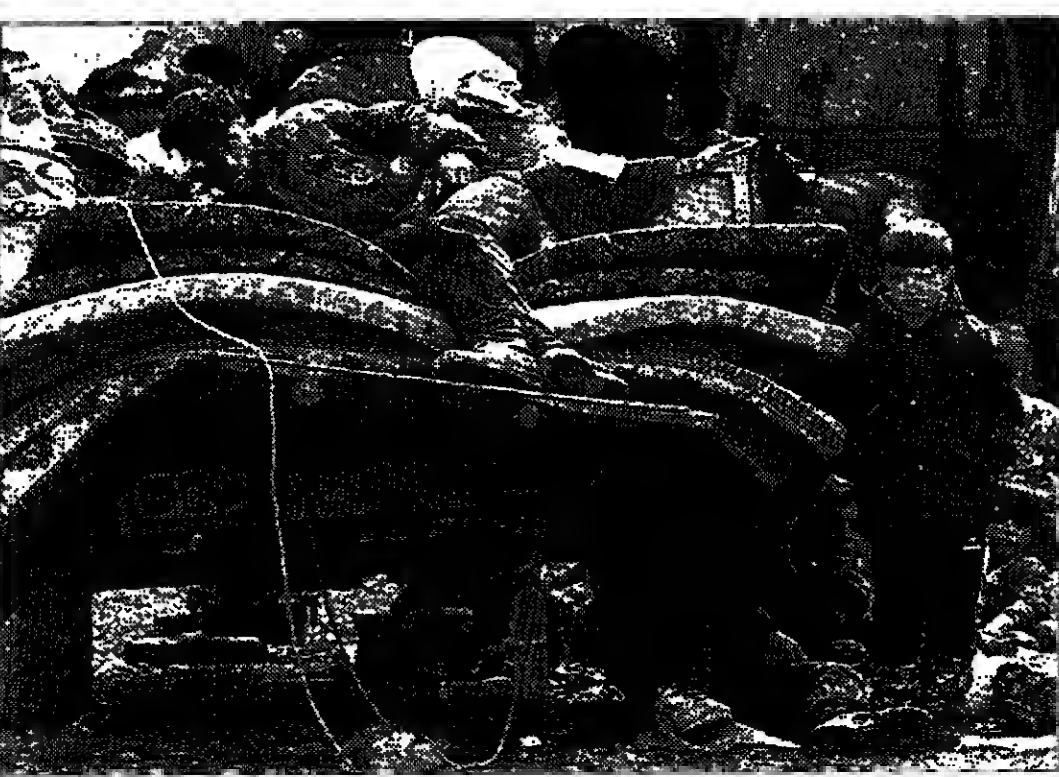
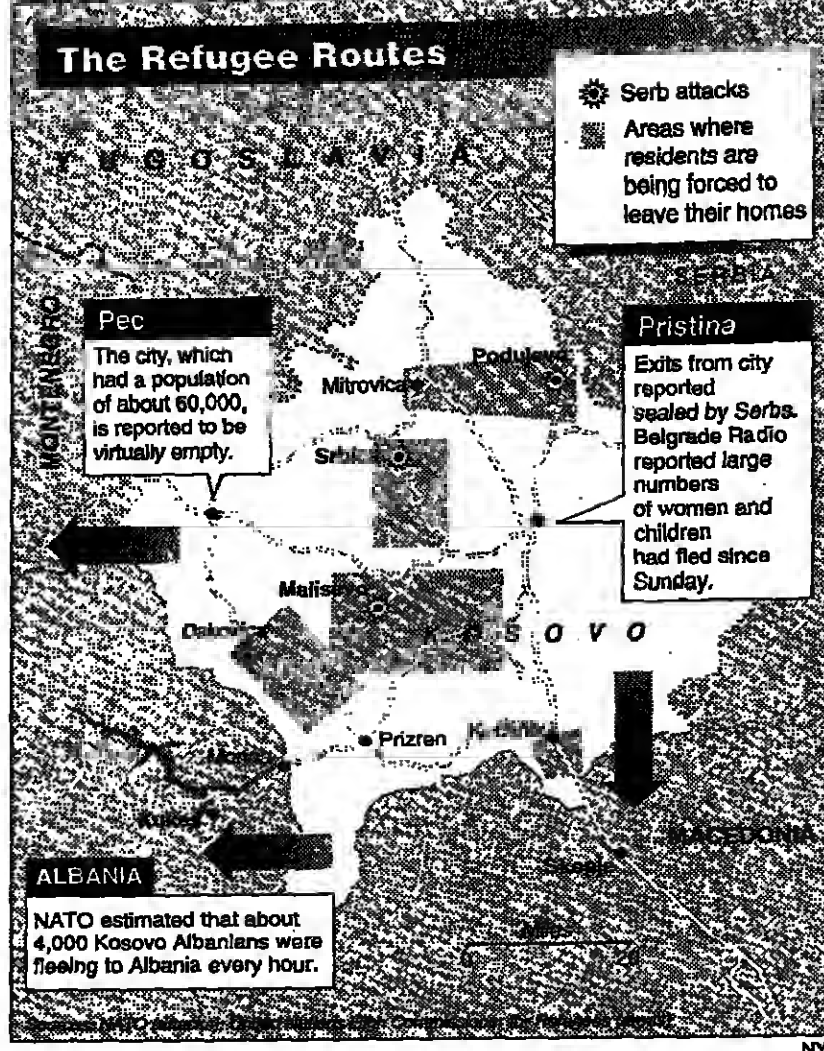
The foreign observers broadly agreed with his analysis. Serbian forces are pushing from the north, clearing the area of both rebels and the ethnic Albanian population generally, they said.

"They are squeezing them down to the southwest," one of the observers said, adding that the authorities might be aiming for a partition of Kosovo, in an effort to retain the north, with its Serbian Orthodox monasteries and industry and mines.

While the Serbs are proving successful at forcing the civilian population to flee, the rebels were proving resilient, even though under pressure and low on ammunition, the observers said.

The main liability now for the rebels is the displaced civilian population. They are reported to be desperately short of food in some areas, and so their situation is restricting rebel activities, and deflecting rebels from keeping up their fighting.

The key over the next few weeks will be whether the ethnic Albanians can get supplies in — that is, food for the civilian population, and ammunition for the rebel fighters. With 6,000 to 7,000 Serbian troops guarding the border, a 16-kilometer (10-mile) stretch cleared for the purpose, supply routes have been disrupted and thousands of people trapped in the area, civilians may not be able to get food.



A Kosovo family, above, resting Monday in a northern Albanian town after escaping. An ethnic Albanian weeping on his arrival Monday in Macedonia.



Macedonia, Fearing Serbs, Urges NATO To Give Help

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Macedonia's foreign minister said Monday that his country was "one step away" from being dragged into the Kosovo war, and he called on the European Union and NATO for economic and military assistance.

The official, Alexander Dimitrov, said Yugoslavia's armed forces were approaching the Macedonia border. He said Macedonia lacked sufficient military capabilities and that the 12,000 NATO troops now deployed in the country were not a deterrent.

From Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, there were reports that the country was seeking immediate membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to protect it from any Serbian action.

NATO troops were sent to Macedonia to rescue, if necessary, any civilians sent into Kosovo in case a peace agreement was signed during talks in France between the Yugoslavs and secessionist ethnic Albanians.

Mr. Dimitrov said there was "a need for greater guarantees for the integrity and protection of the borders of Macedonia." He said he had had discussions with Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany and would meet later in the day with Defense Minister Rudolf Schärping.

"This is what we demand of NATO, and Germany is a member state of NATO," Mr. Dimitrov said. "I came here to ask for understanding for the position of Macedonia. We are one step away from war."

Neither Mr. Fischer nor Mr. Dimitrov elaborated on what sort of military assistance was required or what NATO would be ready to provide, if anything.

Mr. Fischer, whose country now holds the rotating EU presidency, said the European Union was preparing additional humanitarian aid for Macedonia.

It has given 21.6 million euros (\$23.3 million) in food, medicines and other aid to date, and officials said a further 20 million euros was available for Kosovo refugees.

Ethnic Albanians comprise 40 percent of Macedonia's population. The country has already absorbed 20,000 refugees from Kosovo.

Mr. Dimitrov said it appeared that 15,000 to 20,000 more were moving toward Macedonia, fleeing Serb military forces in Kosovo.

Seeking a 'Security Guarantee'

Earlier, Daniel Williams of The Washington Post wrote from Skopje:

Macedonia, nervous about its security because of the crisis in neighboring Kosovo and fearing a vengeful Serbia, has asked NATO to admit it immediately.

"The Macedonians are saying they have real security concerns that derive from support for NATO operations," a Western diplomat said. "They want a security guarantee."

Western armor and troops are deployed in Macedonia in readiness for any peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

Deputy Prime Minister Radmila Kiprijanova said Macedonia would not be used as a base for invasion by NATO ground troops to stop the killings and expulsions of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

But she did not rule out a change in policy.

Foreign Minister Alexander Dimitrov is set to travel to Athens, Rome, Bonn and Brussels to lobby for NATO membership, Mrs. Kiprijanova said.

He will argue that Macedonia should quickly be made a member of the alliance or at least be given a security guarantee because of its support for NATO operations.

Across the border, Yugoslavs appear to be taking the possibility of an attack against them seriously. Refugees crossing into Macedonia say troops have mined the border and that roads and towns are full of troops. Tanks are said to be posted near the border.

Under Bombing, Montenegro's Anti-Milosevic Stance Wavers

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

PODGORICA, Yugoslavia — Residents here watched nervously Sunday afternoon as two bombs dropped by a NATO warplane sent a huge column of black smoke billowing into the pale blue sky over the city's airport. It was another successful attack, officials here said, not only on a Yugoslav military target but also on this Montenegrin capital's ambition to stay out of the West's war with Yugoslavia.

Because the political leadership in Montenegro, Serbia's much smaller partner in the Yugoslav federation, is led by avowed opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic and his policies in the nearby Serbian province of Kosovo, many here expected to be spared NATO air strikes.

Instead, Yugoslav military targets in Montenegro have been hit on four of the first five days of NATO's assault. It has sparked rising public protest, which the democratically minded Montenegrin leadership fears may eventually con-

sume any pro-Western sentiment. As in Serbia, which has absorbed the brunt of the NATO air strikes, sentiment is rapidly becoming more sympathetic to Mr. Milosevic.

"We are a lighthouse for the region," said Branko Perovic, Montenegro's foreign minister, adding that "you are hitting the lighthouse." He said it was a "very destabilizing moment for us" and a "very unifying factor" for a population that was previously critical of the Serb-led Yugoslav government and toying with the idea of leaving the federation.

Anti-American demonstrations have grown larger, with about 100 people attending one Friday and 1,500 at one Sunday. Tensions are rising between the Yugoslav Army, which is ruled by Belgrade, and Montenegro's Interior Ministry troops, which are loyal to the republic's leaders and are now deployed in force around government buildings and at major intersections here.

Some of the tensions stem from the refusal by the republic's leaders to honor Belgrade's emergency decree giving the

military the right to draft recruits for service in Kosovo. The army has set up checkpoints on the outskirts of the city, where its troops have reportedly begun pulling young men from cars to be sent to barracks for immediate duty.

A trickle of ethnic Albanian refugees across the republic's border with Kosovo, meanwhile, has started to look more like a flood, with a migration of roughly 1,000 people on Saturday swelling to 5,000 Sunday. There are reports of tens of thousands more who are waiting to cross because of an intensifying crackdown by security forces in the western Kosovo city of Pec and nearby villages.

A large refugee flow would pose a new challenge to Montenegro's beleaguered economy and could ignite a backlash among the majority Slavic population here, some officials worry. Already, more than 5 percent of Montenegro's 680,000 residents are refugees from Kosovo, and in some cities the percentage is close to half.

President Milo Djukanovic, a strong advocate of closer ties with the West, has

tried to keep the republic's emotions in check by mildly criticizing the air strikes. He also has urged commanders of the Yugoslav 2d Army based in Montenegro not to retaliate against the bombing and draw further NATO fire that might produce civilian casualties.

The Montenegrin government also has attempted to counter the Belgrade government's robust propaganda about NATO aggression by allowing local television to broadcast CNN and Sky News reports about the conflict, with a voice-over in Serbo-Croatian.

Despite NATO strikes on at least 10 military targets in Montenegro, army units here have not fired a shot in retaliation. But political leaders say they are not certain whether this is because the anti-aircraft system has been destroyed, the army has been persuaded to avoid a confrontation, or Mr. Milosevic has merely ordered his generals here to keep their powder dry for a response in coming days.

The bombardment has radicalized feelings here, a top official said. "The situation has empowered Milosevic," with the result that "we have spent a lot of time keeping things under control." The official said that none of the leadership wants Montenegro to take part in the fight between Mr. Milosevic and the West, but that the population's divided loyalties mean "if we try to turn the radar off by force, it would mean civil war."

The reason that Mr. Djukanovic refused to honor the Belgrade government's emergency decree, officials said, is that it would have given the army authority to take over state-owned broadcast outlets, conduct propaganda, draft anyone it wants to and move its forces anywhere in the republic without the approval of the civilian leadership.

Mr. Djukanovic and his aides saw this as tantamount to a Milosevic-backed military coup and offered instead to organize joint patrols of Interior Ministry and army troops, an idea the army rejected. But Mr. Djukanovic's refusal to cooperate earned him a new sobriquet in the official Belgrade press last Thursday: "the greatest traitor in the history of Montenegro."

TRAVEL UPDATE

U.K. Air Traffic Control Bug-Free

LONDON (AP) — Britain's air traffic control systems are free of the millennium bug, authorities said Monday. The declaration came after technicians from the Civil Aviation Authority completed £10 million (\$16.2 million) worth of testing on computers controlling more than 700 air traffic control systems. About 5,000 flights pass through British airspace each day.

The National Air Traffic Services agency said it would next test compliance with neighboring systems in Europe and Canada, and would continue to work on contingency plans.

Correction

The crossword puzzle solution published in Monday's editions, for the puzzle of March 26, was incorrect. Here is the correct solution:

DOWN
1. BIRD
2. PANAMA
3. FIRESUP
4. AGILITY
5. APOSTLE
6. WONDIVER
7. DONKEYKONGJR
8. SIDI
9. ERS
10. ASANA
11. SCALP
12. CHA
13. TIE
14. PORTSOFENTRY
15. ROSSIEA
16. POCOMOIS
17. TIMEEXPOSURE
18. VIEW
19. LUSTY
20. SLEW
21. WIE
22. UNLIMITED
23. SOUSUE
24. ANIMATE
25. STANLEY
26. RETAKES
27. EIGHT

A Fire Delays

Boston Flights

BOSTON (AP) — A manhole fire in eastern Boston caused a temporary blackout at Logan International Airport.

The outage Sunday night did not affect runway lights or air traffic, but it caused some delays in boarding flights.

Backup systems restored power within minutes to all but one of the airport's terminals.

WEATHER

Europe				Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.				Asia			
City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High
Algeria	20/17	12/5	20/17	Amsterdam	12/10	8/6	12/10	Algeria	20/17	12/5	20/17
Antwerp	12/10	8/6	12/10	Athens	18/10	14/10	18/10	Ankara	18/10	14/10	18/10
Athens	18/10	14/10	18/10	Berlin	12/10	8/6	12/10	Bangkok	28/20	24/20	28/20
Berlin	12/10	8/6	12/10	Bombay	28/20	24/20	28/20	Bombay	28/20	24/20	28/20
Bombay	28/20	24/20	28/20	Buenos Aires	18/10	14/10	18/10	Buenos Aires	18/10	14/10	18/10
Buenos Aires	18/10	14/10	18/10	Calcutta	28/20	24/20	28/20	Calcutta	28/20	24/20	28/20
Calcutta	28/20	24/20	28/20	Cardiff	12/10	8/6	12/10	Cardiff	12/10	8/6	12/10
Cardiff	12/10	8/6	12/10	Cairo	28/20	24/20	28/20	Cairo	28/20	24/20	28/20
Cairo	28/20	24/20	28/20	Cebu	28/20	24/20	28/20	Cebu	28/20	24/20	28/20
Cebu	28/20	24/20	28/20	Dakar	28/20	24/20	28/20	Dakar	28/20	24/20	28/20
Dakar	28/20	24/20	28/20	Dallas	18/10	14/10	18/10	Dallas	18/10	14/10	18/10
Dallas	18/10	14/10	18/10	Dhaka	28/20	24/20	28/20	Dhaka	28/20	24/20	28/20
Dhaka	28/20	24/20	28/20	Dublin	12/10	8/6	12/10	Dublin	12/10	8/6	12/10
Dublin	12/10	8/6	12/10	Frankfurt	12/10	8/6	12/10	Frankfurt	12/10	8/6	12/10
Frankfurt	12/10	8/6	12/10	Hanoi	28/20	24/20	28/20	Hanoi	28/20	24/20	28/20
Hanoi	28/20	24/20	28/20	Hong Kong	28/20	24/20	28/20	Hong Kong	28/20	24/20	28/20
Hong Kong	28/20	24/20	28/20	Istanbul	18/10	14/10	18/10	Istanbul	18/10	14/10	18/10
Istanbul	18/10	14/10	18/10	Jakarta	28/20	24/20	28/20	Jakarta	28/20	24/20	28/20
Jakarta	28/20	24/20	28/20	London	12/10	8/6	12/10	London	12/10	8/6	12/10
London	12/10	8/6	12/10	Los Angeles	18/10	14/10	18/10	Los Angeles	18/10	14/10	18/10
Los Angeles	18/10	14/10	18/10	Manila	28/20	24/20	28/20	Manila	28/20	24/20	28/20
Manila	28/20	24/20	28/20	Moscow	18/10	14/10	18/10	Moscow	18/10	14/10	18/10
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Mumbai	28/20	24/20	28/20	Nairobi	28/20	24/20	28/20	Nairobi	28/20	24/20	28/20
Nairobi	28/20	24/20	28/20	Paris	12/10	8/6	12/10	Paris	12/10	8/6	12/10
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Peking	28/20	24/20	28/20	Rangoon	28/20	24/20	28/20	Rangoon	28/20	24/20	28/20
Rangoon	28/20	24/20	28/20	Rio de Janeiro	18/10	14/10	18/10	Rio de Janeiro	18/10	14/10	18/10
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THE AMERICAS

Paraguayan
On the Run
Gets Asylum
In Argentina

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina granted political asylum on Monday to General Lino Oviedo, the retired former Paraguayan military chief who fled here Sunday night after he was accused of ordering the assassination of Vice President Luis María Argana of Paraguay.

General Oviedo's flight here for asylum and Argentina's decision to grant him asylum put Argentina in the middle of Paraguay's political crisis, which boiled over with the assassination of the vice president last Tuesday and climaxed Sunday with the forced resignation of President Raúl Cubas.

"Senior Lino Cesar Oviedo is granted political asylum," the Argentine Interior Ministry said in a statement that cited an 1889 extradition treaty.

General Oviedo, who for a tumultuous eight months was the power behind the throne of President Raúl Cubas, escaped from Paraguay with his wife and children in a light aircraft on Sunday night.

Mr. Cubas resigned earlier Sunday, five days after Mr. Argana was shot and killed in his car. The Senate leader, Luis González Macchi, 52, was quickly sworn in as president.

On Monday, a Paraguayan judge ordered Mr. Cubas to be placed under house arrest on negligent homicide charges stemming from the deaths of five protesters last week.

General Oviedo was sentenced last year to 10 years in prison for plotting a coup in 1996, but was set free when Mr. Cubas took power in August.

Mr. Cubas was facing impeachment for failing to re-arrest General Oviedo on charges of leading the failed coup. Arriving in Argentina on Sunday night, General Oviedo asked for political asylum, but a Paraguayan judge, several congressmen and armed bodyguards arrived on Monday morning in Argentina to request his extradition.

Congressman Angel Barchini said earlier Monday that General Oviedo's reported friendship with President Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina should not impede extradition for offenses including alleged involvement in Mr. Argana's killing.

Congress was already planning to dismiss Mr. Cubas for freeing General Oviedo from jail shortly after taking office in August in defiance of the Supreme Court. General Oviedo had been serving a 10-year jail sentence for attempting to overthrow former President Juan Carlos Wasmosy in 1996.

But the Argentine statement included the text of a decree issued by Interior Minister Carlos Corach saying that the government agreed with General Oviedo's lawyers that the general deserves asylum under international law.

Paraguay's protracted crisis goes back to a 1996 failed coup attempt by General Oviedo, a populist, to oust then-President Juan Carlos Wasmosy. General Oviedo ran for president two years later, but during the campaign he was imprisoned for the coup attempt. That led to the election of Mr. Cubas, his vice presidential candidate.

When Mr. Cubas defied the Supreme Court and freed General Oviedo from prison as one of his first acts in office last August, it set off a move by congressional opponents and Mr. Argana to impeach him. The vice president's assassination by several men dressed in military fatigues last week set off a wave of street demonstrations and violence that finally forced Mr. Cubas to resign.

Paraguayan prosecutors have accused General Oviedo of masterminding the assassination.

Meanwhile, a Paraguayan judge has accused him of ordering the slayings of six young demonstrators who marched against Mr. Cubas's government last week.

As 60,000 people gathered in the streets of Asunción on Sunday night to celebrate the emergence of Senator González Macchi as president, General Oviedo spirited himself out of the country.



Raul Cubas, with his wife, Mirta Gusinsky, waving after resigning as president of Paraguay. At right, his successor, Luis Gonzalez Macchi, the Senate president, taking questions at a press conference in Asunción.

Philip Morris's Children's Crusade

Skepticism Greeted Anti-Smoking Campaign Aimed at Youngsters

By Sandra Torrey
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Their eyes meet across a room. The teenage girl walks over to chat, but then the boy pulls out a pack of cigarettes. Suddenly, he morphs into a chimpanzee. "Think smoking makes you look cool?" a voice asks. "No way." And finally, the tag line: "Think. Don't Smoke."

This 30-second TV commercial and six others are running nationally — paid for by Philip Morris USA as part of a \$100 million campaign, touted by the tobacco giant as a multipronged effort to reduce teenage smoking.

Critics, however, question whether the nation's leading cigarette maker really wants to reduce teenage smoking or has simply launched a sophisticated public relations drive.

Philip Morris, they say, gains some subtle advantages with the campaign. The commercials — running on every major broadcast and cable network on youth-oriented shows — give Philip Morris its first presence on television since the tobacco industry agreed to stop TV advertising in 1971. The effort also gives the company a window into the attitudes of youngsters, age 10 to 14, whom the company recently has been probing in focus groups and other settings as it develops its message.

Some critics also point to the naming of Carolyn Levy to head the effort. Ms. Levy is a former Philip Morris researcher, who, according to internal industry documents, was involved in the com-

pany's research on young smokers. Adding another layer of controversy is Philip Morris's wooing of an unlikely ally — the National 4-H Council, which comes with a wholesome image and roster of 6 million young participants — to develop a more personal, community-based anti-smoking program. Some state 4-H leaders say they do not want to be affiliated with the tobacco industry and argue that 4-H should have turned down Philip Morris's \$4.3 million grant.

Philip Morris executives are unruffled by the uproar and adamant that the company always has opposed underage smoking. Ellen Merlo, senior vice president of corporate affairs, said Philip Morris has started a separate, independent Youth Smoking Prevention department and has given it \$100 million. "There are skeptics out there when it comes to tobacco companies," Ms. Merlo said. "But they will have to judge what we do."

Other tobacco companies also have jumped on the youth anti-smoking issue. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. recently gave the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) a \$230,000 grant to develop a youth program. Since 1991, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. has funded a program to provide posters and other anti-smoking materials to schools. But none of the efforts has come close to the budget or visibility of Philip Morris's.

The company will focus about \$75 million this year solely on its anti-smoking advertising, about 30 percent of the \$244 million it spent last year to sell

cigarettes with magazine, newspaper and billboard advertising, according to Competitive Media Reporting, which tracks such expenditures.

Much research has gone into honing Philip Morris's ad message, according to Ms. Levy, who said it gave children "credit for their ability to make good decisions." Her department consulted academic experts, questioned youngsters in focus groups and at shopping malls in 40 cities, surveyed parents and used a top ad agency, New York's Young & Rubicam Inc., which handles advertising for Philip Morris's Parliament brand, to produce the ads.

More than 93 percent of the youngsters interviewed said "our commercials told them not to smoke," Ms. Levy said.

While there is sharp disagreement on what anti-smoking message best motivates teenagers, the four states that have run their own ad campaigns — Arizona, California, Massachusetts and Florida — have gone with edgy, in-your-face commercials, often ones that vilify the tobacco industry or graphically portray smoking's adverse health effects.

Using focus groups of youths aged 12 to 16, a Chicago-area market research firm, hired by those states, recently tested state ads and two Philip Morris ads and found the industry ads "were clearly and consistently the weakest," according to Peter Zollo, president of Teenage Research Unlimited. "Some kids told us quite alarmingly that the Philip Morris message is: It is up to them whether they do or don't smoke," he said.

lowing complaints that some shows were too risqué.

The sales campaign sounds like a come-on for an exclusive new real estate development: "Overlooking the James River, it has one of the most spectacular views in Richmond," a radio commercial says. "Since the turn of the century, it has been a favorite spot for family outings. In the 1920s, it became one of the city's most popular Sunday drives." This quiet gated community is on the National Historical Register. Quiet indeed. The real estate on offer is in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia; it is the resting place of Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler and the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis.

Such aggressive advertising by a cemetery, which once would have seemed jolting, is no longer unusual. Kelly Smith, spokesman for the National Funeral Directors Association, told The Associated Press. "Businesses that provide funeral goods and services are learning that they have to rely more on conventional business advertising and less on their longevity, reputation and name recognition," she said.

Brian Knowlton

AMERICAN
TOPICS

The Grass Is Never Greener

Americans spend at least as much on lawn care — an estimated total of \$30 billion a year — as they do on books. Lawns occupy more land than any other crop, including wheat and corn.

Such lawn mania is, for the most part, a peculiarly American feature.

Yet, the American lawn as aesthetic creation is little more than a century old, reports Smithsonian magazine. It quotes the landscape historian Georges Teyssot, who has edited a book called "The American Lawn."

That lawn, Mr. Teyssot said, is a hybrid of two traditions: the colonial garden, usually a small area where vegetables and flowers were grown, fenced to keep pigs and cattle out, and the aristocratic lawn, an impressive sweep of short grass that offered vistas to the mansion on a grand estate.

After the Civil War, the suburban lawn became the most recognizable element of the American landscape. It was thought to purify the air and, by putting lawns together without fences between houses, people created their own park. Such openness was considered public-minded, Mr. Teyssot said.

Many Americans spend hundreds of hours a year in pursuit of a weedless patch of green.

For all the effort, fertilizer and pesticides poured onto the land (in pursuit of what a few dissenters consider an unnatural monocultural crop), four in five Americans are dissatisfied with their lawns.

What does it take to achieve lawn perfection?

At the Milwaukee County Stadium, home park to the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team, a crew of 35 mows the field daily to achieve pool-table smoothness. Attention is paid even to achieving esthetically pleasing mowing patterns.

Los Angeles might pull the plug on some of the wild and weird public access programs that have filled its cable television channels. A citywide "public access" channel has dropped its public-access programming fol-

owing complaints that some shows were too risqué.

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Campus Activism, Again

Across U.S., Students Take Up Labor Cause

By Steven Greenhouse
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In the biggest surge in U.S. campus activism in nearly two decades, student protests have burst onto the scene with rallies, teach-ins and sit-ins protesting sweatshops and other labor issues.

Students at Duke, Michigan, Georgetown, Yale and 20 other institutions have focused on the sweat shops and caps emblazoned with college names that are sold in every university shop, demanding that the companies that license college names not use overseas sweatshops.

Two weeks ago, University of Michigan students took over the office of the president to make such demands. The week before, 350 Harvard students held a rally to make similar demands, while also calling for raises for many of Harvard's janitors and dining hall workers.

The protests are the biggest wave of campus activism in the United States since the anti-apartheid movement in the early 1980s, when students called on colleges to sell off stock in companies doing business in South Africa.

The surge stems in part from unions' efforts to attract students to labor's cause and to train them to be activists. Over the past three years, unions recruited hundreds of students for summer internships and, upon returning to campus, many of these students were galvanized to continue their battle to help workers in the United States and abroad.

The snowballing protests have included sit-ins at Duke, Georgetown and the University of Wisconsin and demonstrations at Brown, Cornell and Princeton. Last month, 40 Yale students staged a "knit-in" to highlight sweatshop abuses, while students at Holy Cross and the University of California at Berkeley staged mock fashion shows in which undergraduates walking the runway described the dismal conditions in which many garments were made.

While today's protests bring back memories of the raucous '60s and anti-war demonstrations, the current activism is different. It is less vociferous, it has focused on labor issues — there have also been rallies to defend affirmative action and promote gay rights — and it often has the sympathy of administrators.

The demands are also more modest than, say, the overthrow of capitalism. They include independent monitoring of factories that make college-name apparel, and a living wage for their workers.

"We're not asking for a revolution," said Tico Almeida, a Duke senior who led a 31-hour sit-in in the office of Duke's president. "We're just asking for improvement of working conditions. It doesn't seem like a lot to ask for."

So far the protests have not involved violence. And in a far cry from decades past, university presidents have not demanded the arrest or ouster of students who occupied their offices. Many officials have even praised the protesters.

"They are terrific students," Lee Bollinger, president of the University of Michigan, said of the 30 students who occupied his office and the 200 others who rallied outside. "They're just the kind of students you want on your campus. They were knowledgeable about the problem, and they really wanted to do something about it."

In addition to recognizing that arrests can increase tensions, many college officials have seen themselves when they were undergraduates.

"Back in the '60s, I was a student holding a sign," said Allan Ryan, a lawyer in Harvard's general counsel's office who has been the university's chief negotiator with anti-sweatshop students. "Now I look out the window and say, 'Students are protesting. Let's see what's on their minds.' Now we look at student protests as being a normal part of the educational process."

With encouragement from the apparel workers' union, Unite, students have seized on the sweatshop issue as a clear-cut subject that hits close to home and that they can make a difference on. With \$2.5 billion in college-name merchandise sold in the United States each year, students are confident they can use their moral stature and their universities' fi-

nanial muscle to bring about changes in manufacturing, even overseas.

Not everyone applauds the protests. Laura Vanderkum, a Princeton sophomore, said: "Who is a well-to-do Princeton student to say what a living wage is in Bangladesh or China? These workers may make above average wages for the area. And arbitrarily raising wages could cause layoffs."

Evidenced by protests at Harvard, Fairfield and Johns Hopkins, another issue catching fire is wages for the lowest-paid campus workers, typically janitors and food workers. At the University of Virginia, students have joined with clergy and civil rights groups to argue that amid campus privilege, it is unfair that school employees earn \$6.50 an hour and need two jobs to get by.

POLITICAL NOTES

Republicans Split
On NATO Strikes

WASHINGTON — As NATO continued air strikes in Serbia, Republican presidential candidates remain deeply divided over how their party should respond to the U.S. involvement.

While Republican leaders unanimously condemned President Bill Clinton's foreign policy in general, they sounded discordant tones last week over the intervention in Kosovo.

The views of the leading presidential contenders ranged from support for strong intervention and qualified backing for air strikes to denunciation of any involvement and avoidance of the issue entirely.

"They're all over the map, and certainly that reflects the fissure that exists in the Republican Party," said Thomas Moore of the Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Moore described the split as essentially between "nationalists," who represent the party's more isolationist wing, and "globalists," who want to maintain a leading U.S. role in world affairs. (WP)

Tipper Gore's Style

SACRAMENTO, California — Tipper Gore says that, while she is a friend and admirer of Hillary Rodham Clinton, she has her own style. That style is sure to be scrutinized as she becomes more visible during the 2000 presidential campaign.

"Anyone who finds herself in the role of first lady reflects her individuality and who she is as a person," Mrs. Gore said.

Mrs. Clinton is a key adviser in the White House; Mrs. Gore says she gives advice to her husband when asked, often at home or on walks.

Would she be a fixture in the Oval Office, offering advice? "I've never done it that way," she said. (AP)

Away From Politics

• A University of Alabama professor driving on Interstate 75 in Florida was killed by a 20- to 30-pound (9- to 14-kilogram) rock tossed from an overpass. Six to eight other cars were damaged by rocks thrown from three different overpasses during the weekend. (AP)

• The Mars Global Surveyor has successfully unfolded its high-gain antenna that had been retracted since the spacecraft was launched in November 1996. The dish-shaped antenna can transmit data to Earth and receive commands while the spacecraft's instruments continuously map the planet. (AP)

• Five anti-nuclear activists were arrested after entering the grounds of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Pennsylvania to mark the 20th anniversary Sunday of America's worst commercial nuclear accident. (AP)

High Court Agrees to Hear Compulsory Campus Fees Case

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed on Monday to decide whether state-run universities can dedicate a portion of the activity fees collected from all students — even those who object — to subsidize groups that pursue political and ideological goals.

The justices said they would review rulings that barred the University of Wisconsin from using a portion of the activity fees it collects from every student to finance such groups.

A federal trial judge and in appeals court ruled that the subsidies unlawfully force some students to subsidize views they find objectionable. The lower courts barred the university from using fees collected from objecting students, ruling that to do so would violate their free-speech rights.

In other cases, the court took these actions:

• It declined to revive an affirmative-action program once used by the Dallas Fire Department to promote more blacks, Hispanics and women. The justices let stand a ruling that struck down the program as discriminatory against white men.

• It refused in a Utah case to revive a reverse-discrimination challenge to a program that gives companies owned by disadvantaged people extra help in winning contracts for federal highway projects.

• It cleared the way for cities to decide what prayers are said to open council meetings and to reject any that disparage other religious views or are considered unacceptable. The high court rejected without any comment or dissent an appeal by Tom Snyder, who claimed his constitutional rights had been violated after he was prevented from offering his proposed prayer at a city council meeting in Murray City, Utah. The justices let stand a decision by a U.S. appeals court that the constitution does not require a legislative body to provide equal public access to everyone to recite prayers.

Several law students challenged the funding of student-activity money to 18 organizations on the Madison campus.

"The forced funding of such organizations significantly adds to the burdening of the students' free-speech rights," a three-judge

panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year. It said the university "cannot use the allocable portion of objecting students' mandatory activity fees" to fund those organizations.

The appeals court panel's ruling did not shield objecting students from paying any activity fees, but gave them an opt-out privilege. They can identify the political or ideological groups they do not want to support and have their fees reduced on a prorated basis.

Among the groups objected to in the 1996 lawsuit against the university were Students of National Organization for Women, International Socialist Organization, Campus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Center and an AIDS support network. (AP, Reuters)

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EUROPE

Primakov and Top Russian Aides Will Fly to Belgrade

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin, in a major gamble with Russia's diplomatic and military heavyweights, ordered Monday that his prime minister, foreign minister and defense minister fly to Belgrade to try to find a political way to end the NATO air attacks against Serbia and the crisis in Kosovo.

The delegation, led by Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, plans to fly to Belgrade on Tuesday and will meet with President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Primakov will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Defense Minister Igor Sergeev, the Foreign Intelligence Service director, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, and Valentin Korabelnikov, chief of intelligence for the Russian military's general staff.

The decision to send Mr. Primakov is the first major diplomatic and political

initiative from Russia, a traditional ally of Serbia's, since the military operations began last week.

Since the beginning of the NATO bombing, Russia has been highly vocal in its criticism, suspending its military ties with the alliance and lambasting the United States.

But in actions, it has stood largely on the sidelines.

Russian officials said the goal of the high-level delegation was to stop the air strikes and to bring about a renewal of negotiations. But they did not offer details of how they would attempt to achieve this.

Mr. Ivanov said the idea of sending the group came up after an earlier proposal to convene the six-nation Contact Group on Yugoslavia, which includes Russia, fell on deaf ears.

The other members of the group — France, Italy, Britain, Germany and the United States — are part of the NATO force. Mr. Ivanov said that "the existence of the Contact Group may be put into question."

"We are going to Belgrade not to save somebody's face but to stop the aggression, to return to the negotiating table," Mr. Ivanov said to reporters.

The purpose of the trip is to "reverse the negative dynamic of events," he added.

The foreign minister did not specify any requests that the group might put to Mr. Milosevic.

The aggression was launched by NATO and it is up to NATO to stop it," he said.

Prime Minister Primakov may go to Bonn after the talks in Belgrade, the Interfax news service reported.

Mr. Primakov spoke Monday night with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, his spokeswoman said.

France, too, has expressed support for the mission.

Mr. Ivanov said the group would decide in Belgrade after the meeting with Mr. Milosevic whether to go on to other capitals.

It is extraordinarily rare for Russia to dispatch such a high-level delegation of top officials together.

Russian officials told Interfax they did not coordinate the flight with NATO officials but considered the public announcement to be sufficient to inform them.

Yugoslav airspace was closed last week by NATO's demand, and the Russian airline Aeroflot has redirected its Belgrade flight to Budapest.

Interfax reported, "In keeping with international regulations, the authorities of all countries, the airspace of which the special plane will be crossing, have been notified."

The delegation is scheduled to depart Moscow at 10 A.M. and fly to Belgrade's international airport, Surcin, according to Russian news accounts.

The high-level Russian delegation follows by a day a trip to Belgrade by three Russian liberal reformers, former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, former Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov, and former First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov. They reached Belgrade but were unable to arrange a meeting with Mr. Milosevic.

Mr. Ivanov said they had consulted him before going but that they traveled as private individuals, not as representatives of President Yeltsin.

Mr. Fyodorov said on Russian public television that the group held a series of talks and sent a document to President Milosevic and his government.

"We are an unofficial delegation but we have managed to clarify a few things and make some proposals," he said. Later, he told Russia's Echo of Moscow radio that "there are problems here because most of the Yugoslav leadership here in Belgrade are not willing to engage in any direct negotiations."

The group had met with the U.S. special envoy, Richard Holbrooke.

Russia continued to ratchet up its protests Monday by announcing further pullbacks from previously agreed cooperation with NATO programs.



Below: Patriarch Pavle, head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, in Belgrade on Monday before addressing the nation and calling for an end to the NATO bombing. At left, Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, left, and the Russian defense minister, General Igor Sergeev, arriving at the Kremlin on Monday for a cabinet meeting. Later, it was announced that Mr. Primakov would meet with President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia to seek a way to halt the air campaign.



Above, Patriarch Pavle, head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, in Belgrade on Monday before addressing the nation and calling for an end to the NATO bombing. At left, Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, left, and the Russian defense minister, General Igor Sergeev, arriving at the Kremlin on Monday for a cabinet meeting. Later, it was announced that Mr. Primakov would meet with President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia to seek a way to halt the air campaign.

Jet Navigator In Ski-Cable Case to Enter Guilty Plea

The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina — A Marine navigator whose jet cut a ski gondola cable in Italy last year has agreed to plead guilty to obstruction and conspiracy charges, a military spokesman said Monday.

The navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, was expected to enter the plea at a hearing late Monday afternoon at Camp Lejeune, according to the spokesman, Captain Steve Butler with Marine Corps Forces Atlantic at Norfolk, Virginia.

Captain Schweitzer was accused of destroying a videotape that he shot before his radar-jamming EA-6B Prowler hit the gondola cable during a low-level training flight in February 1998. All 20 people inside the gondola were killed.

The court-martial of Captain Schweitzer, 31, had been scheduled to begin late last week with jury selection. But legal maneuvers and discussions between government and defense lawyers delayed it.

"They've been meeting for the past week on this," Captain Butler said. "That's why the jury process has been delayed."

A military jury at Camp Lejeune acquitted the jet's pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, 31, of manslaughter and other charges on March 4.

Manslaughter counts against Captain Schweitzer were dismissed after the acquittal. But Captain Schweitzer and Captain Ashby faced the obstruction of justice and conspiracy charges because of the videotape's disappearance.

Marine officials at Camp Lejeune and Norfolk did not immediately know whether the plea deal would include Captain Schweitzer's agreeing to testify at Captain Ashby's conspiracy and obstruction court-martial.

Each charge against Captain Schweitzer carries a maximum five-year sentence.

Captain Ashby testified during his trial that Captain Schweitzer videotaped the early part of their training flight. He said that after they landed, he gave the tape to Captain Schweitzer and never saw it again.

Court Grants Appeal Right To Pinochet

The Associated Press

LONDON — The High Court on Monday granted General Augusto Pinochet the right to appeal Home Secretary Jack Straw's decision allowing Spain to attempt to extradite the former Chilean dictator.

The three-judge panel also granted Mr. Straw's request that he have until April 15 to reconsider his December ruling that allowed extradition proceedings to go forward.

General Pinochet was arrested Oct. 16 in London at the request of a Spanish judge seeking his extradition on charges of human rights abuses.

An official Chilean report says 3,197 people were murdered or disappeared at the hands of secret police after General Pinochet toppled the elected president, Salvador Allende, in a bloody 1973 coup.

General Pinochet's attorneys filed their challenge to the home secretary's decision Wednesday, immediately after the Law Lords dismissed the bulk of the Spanish case against the 83-year-old general and suggested Mr. Straw review his December ruling.

The Law Lords ruled that General Pinochet enjoyed a limited immunity from arrest as a former head of state.

The seven-judge panel said most of the 32 charges against the general, which allege torture, hostage-taking and conspiracy to torture, must be dismissed because they predated a law adopted by Britain in 1988 allowing any nation to try anyone accused of torture.

But by denying General Pinochet immunity for acts alleged in the last two years of his 17-year regime, including torture and conspiracy to torture, the Law Lords allowed the extradition process to proceed.

Blair Joining Irish Leader In Ulster Push

Agence France-Presse

BELFAST — Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, were expected late Monday in Belfast in a late bid to break the deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process.

In the four days left before the Good Friday anniversary of last year's historic peace accord, the two men are hoping to push the British-ruled province's rival Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders into a compromise.

The talks could turn into a marathon as heated as the one that led up to last year's accord, concluded in the early hours of April 10, 1998.

Despite their personal intervention, there is little sign of a breakthrough over the issue holding up implementation of the peace deal: Protestant demands for a start to disarmament by the Irish Republican Army.

Britain's minister for Northern Ireland, Paul Murphy, admitted Monday that all sides faced "a very difficult week" ahead of the British government's deadline of Friday.

But in a bid to keep the pressure up, he confirmed that London could decide to appoint the new power-sharing administration for Northern Ireland on Wednesday or Thursday over the head of the pro-British Protestant Unionists.

David Trimble, the Unionist first minister, has refused to share power with Sinn Féin until its military arm, the IRA, begins to dismantle its arsenal of guns and explosives.

But the Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams, reiterated Sunday that the decommissioning of IRA weapons was not a precondition to Sinn Féin taking its two cabinet seats in the 10-member executive.

"This is the time for moving forward, for seizing the moment and moving positively together and not letting people down," he said at a rally in Belfast in memory of the human-rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson, who was murdered by Protestant extremists two weeks ago.

The IRA, according to British press reports, may hint at some flexibility over disarmament in its traditional Easter Sunday statement to mark the anniversary of the 1916 uprising against British rule in Ireland.

Aid Agencies Scrambling to Meet Refugees' Needs

By Barry James

International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Refugee aid organizations scrambled Monday to cope with the vast humanitarian crisis caused by the exodus of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, with up to 4,000 refugees an hour flooding into northern Albania.

There are "up to 80,000 to 100,000 refugees" in Albania, said Emma Bonino, the European Union's commissioner for humanitarian affairs. "It is almost impossible to count them."

She said she would leave for Macedonia and Albania on Wednesday to assess the crisis and coordinate EU aid efforts.

"The top priority is shelter, sanitation, and also to find a way for transport and communication," she said.

Aid efforts were being coordinated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which was struggling to ship supplies to the Albanian border of Kukës, where most of the refugees were massing.

The UN organization has based most of its supplies in the Albanian capital, Tirana, because of the risk of looting in the north of the country. A spokesman said it was taking up to two days for trucks to reach Kukës and return.

Albanian authorities were trying to move the refugees farther south in convoys of buses and trucks but were overwhelmed by the scale of the exodus, the spokesman said.

The French government said that the airport at Tirana, the only one in the country, was closed Monday, further complicating the relief effort.

Miss Bonino said aid organizations had been surprised by the huge flow of refugees into Albania compared with the smaller number crossing into Macedonia.

She said Yugoslav troops and policemen appeared to be directing the refugee flow toward Albania, stripping people of identity papers and car license plates in an apparent attempt to make it impossible for them to return.

The commissioner was speaking at the

headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, where she discussed aid coordination with the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana Madariaga, in a rare instance of cooperation between the two organizations.

Both she and Mr. Solana said that an apparent Serbian campaign of "ethnic cleansing" was not due to the NATO air strikes.

"We face a new phase of human tragedy that has been going on for many years, particularly last year," she said.

Mr. Solana concurred and said, "We are trying to stop this catastrophe and stop this killing."

The refugee crisis "didn't take us by surprise because it was going on for many, many months," he said. "This is not new. The purpose of the bombing is to stop the humanitarian catastrophe."

The UN refugee agency estimated that before the NATO bombing began last week, 460,000 people in Kosovo had been displaced.

But that was over a period of years. The new exodus has overrun the ca-

pability of governments and aid organizations to cope.

The bombing drove international agencies out of Kosovo, forcing them to regroup amid chaotic conditions in Albania and Macedonia, both of which appealed Monday for international assistance.

Miss Bonino said the EU to date had given 21.6 million euros (\$23.4 million) in food, medicine and other aid for the refugees and that a further 20 million euros was on hand for immediate aid.

Montenegro, which with Kosovo and Serbia make up the rump Yugoslavia, suspended a law limiting the inflow of refugees as thousands of people flooded across the border from nearby Kosovo towns, Pec and Djakovica, which reportedly had been emptied of their ethnic Albanian population. Authorities appealed to the EU and Italy for help in setting up refugee camps for 50,000 people.

Albania, its economy and basic services such as electricity, transport and telephones collapsing, also appealed for urgent international assistance.

Wine Sours Iran Leader on Paris Banquet

PARIS — Iran's reluctance to see President Mohammed Khatami clink wine glasses over dinner with his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac, has caused Iran to postpone the president's planned visit to Paris April 12, officials said Monday.

"French officials who respect local customs to foreign countries when they travel expect their guests to do likewise," said a diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

Alcohol is banned in the Islamic republic.

"Islamic codes are clear and are normally respected during President Khatami's visits as Iranian head of state and president of the Organization of the Islamic Conference," the president's office said.

The Chirac-Khatami banquet was to have been the high point of the visit, the first by an Iranian head of state since the advent of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Diplomats from both countries were reported considering rescheduling the visit without a state banquet. (AFP)

Tunnel Unstable, Fire Inquiry Is Halted

CHAMONIX, France — Investigators probing the Mont Blanc tunnel fire that killed at least 40 people have been forced to suspend their work because of the risk of sections of the tunnel collapsing, French rescue officials said Monday.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze Friday, two days after it broke out on a Belgian truck crossing the 11.5-kilometer (seven-mile) tunnel that links France and Italy. (AFP)

Man With Gun Held Near U.S. Embassy

HELSINKI — The police Monday were questioning a man who was detained while in possession of an air gun near the U.S. Embassy, but they could not confirm Finnish media reports that the man had fired at the embassy.

State broadcasting and the news agency STT reported that shots had been fired at the embassy Sunday evening. (AP)

'Mad Cow' Case Found in France

PARIS — The eighth case this year of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, better known as "mad cow" disease, has been detected in southwestern France, officials said Monday.

The animal, a milk cow, was from a herd in L'Aveyron. The herd of 156 cows was slaughtered and incinerated over the weekend, the Agriculture Ministry said. It was the 57th case of the disease detected in France since 1990. (AP)

MOSCOW: Facing Huge Debts, Russia Sets Loan Deal With IMF

Continued from Page 1

The new lending would amount to \$4.8 billion in four tranches, according to Russian officials. The money would start to flow in April or May, after the IMF board approves, and be disbursed by next February.

But some officials have said the money would not act actually come to Russia because it would simply be used to pay back the IMF.

After the ruble's devaluation and debt crisis in August, the IMF suspended what was then a \$22 billion aid package after only one installment.

The IMF lending will also unlock other possibilities to help Russia cope with its total \$17.2 billion external debt

this year. Once an IMF program is in place, Russia can renegotiate terms with the Paris and London Clubs, which hold Soviet-era debt.

With the IMF seal of approval, Russia can also unlock offers of aid from other countries, especially Japan, and from other international financial organizations.

The last IMF program was widely criticized because of disclosures that, once injected into Russia's financial system, the money allowed many players in the financial markets to flee to the face of the August crisis. Moreover, there have been disclosures more recently that earlier allocations of IMF aid were sent abroad to a tiny offshore firm by the central bank itself.

President Bill Clinton has said he would favor additional aid only on condition that it remain in Russia.

Perhaps responding to these concerns, Mr. Primakov once again vowed on Monday to stop capital flight from Russia. "Hard currency is leaving Russia in tremendous amounts, in violation of the Russian legislation," he said. "Twenty-five billion dollars a year. We ought to have put a stopper to it long before, and we will do it."

Critics have questioned whether Mr. Primakov has the desire or levers to stop capital flight, given the government's own activities in sending the central bank reserves to an offshore firm, and given the failure to create conditions conducive to investment inside Russia.

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Beijing and EU Spar Over Rights Criticism

Tensions Grow at Asia-Europe Meeting

BERLIN — Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany rejected on Monday accusations by China that Europe was acting arrogantly by criticizing human rights abuses in Asia.

Opening the second Asia-Europe Meeting of foreign ministers, Mr. Fischer said that European Union nations had no interest in imposing Western values on Asian nations. But he said that improved human rights would promote peace and stability in Asia.

"An open discussion about human rights is needed," Mr. Fischer told the ministers from the 15 EU countries and 10 Asian nations. "It is neither intervention in domestic affairs nor Western arrogance when we in Europe point to the importance of human rights."

Mr. Fischer, speaking for the EU because Germany holds the Union's six-month rotating presidency, said the one-day foreign ministers' meeting would not shy away from the issue of human rights.

"For me," he said, "the key lesson from the Asian crisis is: Good governance, based on human rights, the separation of power and a functioning, democratic legal and constitutional structure, as well as the protection of the environment, are the best basis for peace and successful economic development."

But the foreign ministers' gathering, the second since the Asia-Europe Meeting was started in 1996, is not expected to produce anything more binding than a communiqué.

"We are not in any way at all

trying to impose our values on others," said Mr. Fischer, who has become increasingly outspoken in his criticism of China's human rights record. "It is instead an effort to improve the implementation of international standards for human rights and to contribute to a peaceful and lasting development around the world and in Asia."

Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan of China rejected Mr. Fischer's criticism of human rights after the two met in Bonn on Friday, and he invited the German minister to visit China and see the conditions himself.

Mr. Fischer said Monday that he believed Asia's financial crisis had been worsened by a lack of respect for basic rights. Asian nations with a solid democratic foundation were hurt less by the crisis and were recovering faster than others, he said.

A separate meeting of foreign ministers from the EU and the Association of South East Asian Nations, originally set for Tuesday, was scrapped because the Union would not allow Burma to attend. The EU has long criticized Burma's human rights record.

At the Asia-Europe meeting, the ministers are to discuss Yugoslavia, Russia's economic and political development, the Korean and Cambodia. They will also talk about the Asian financial crisis, the euro and the World Trade Organization.

Along with the 15 EU nations, the Asia-Europe Meeting includes China, Japan, South Korea, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

(Reuters, AFP)



From left, Tang Jiaxuan of China; Masna Hajah, head of Brunei's delegation; Joschka Fischer of Germany and Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen of Finland at the conference in Berlin on Monday.

Burma Dissident Stays Home to Mourn

BANGKOK — The opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will not go to Britain for the funeral of her husband, Michael Aris, despite a government offer to allow the trip, an associate said Monday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was worried she may not be allowed to return to Burma, and has already begun performing Buddhist rites for her late husband in Rangoon, said U Tin Oo, deputy chairman of her National League for Democracy.

Even though she is a devout Buddhist, she is definitely not leaving Rangoon to perform rites for her husband in Britain, U Tin Oo

said in a telephone interview from Rangoon. "She is performing Buddhist rites for him here," he said. "On the seventh day on Friday she will hold a major ceremony in her house."

Asked how Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was taking her husband's death, he said, "She is quite all right now but as a human being she is very much filled with regret and very sad about the death of her husband."

Mr. Aris, an Oxford academic, died Saturday, his 53rd birthday, of prostate cancer. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was unavailable for comment because her telephone is inaccessible from abroad.

The government said Friday it would allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to return to Rangoon if she went to Britain to see her terminally ill husband provided she did not politicize the visit. But Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had rejected the offer, the government said.

Analysts noted she had rejected the offer because she feared the military might not honor its pledge and might take action against her party if she were absent from the country.

The government again offered her assistance on Sunday to go to Britain for the funeral, but this time did not repeat its guarantee she could return after the trip.

Taiwan to Curb Visits to China

TAIPEI — Seeking to plug potential leaks of sensitive information to China, the government said Monday that it would require retired public servants who dealt with state secrets to obtain special permission before visiting the mainland.

Intelligence officials have recently warned that secrets can be leaked to China by retired officials and military officers — many of whom have business interests and family ties there.

The new regulations seem to confirm perceptions that the government questions the loyalties of some retired officials. Many of them are regarded as being alienated by moves here to elevate the strengthening of an independent Taiwanese identity over the goal of reunification with China. (AP)

Pyongyang Asks Help on POWs

TOKYO — North Korea urged the United States on Monday to take responsibility for repatriating prisoners of war in South Korea, saying that this would be "helpful" to its own efforts to find the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the Korean War. The repatriation of North Korean prisoners of war is the responsibility of the United States under the armistice that

brought a truce in the Korean War in the 1950s, but Washington has ignored this, said a report carried by the official Korean Central News Agency that was monitored in Tokyo. (Reuters)

Malaysia Warns Swine Industry

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia cautioned workers in the pig-rearing industry on Monday to wear eye goggles and plastic gloves as it battles two deadly viruses that have killed 64 people.

The Health Ministry announced a series of precautionary measures for pig farmers, slaughterhouse workers and truck drivers with pig cargoes in an effort to curb a viral encephalitis outbreak that has triggered a nationwide health scare. The first fatality occurred in October. (AP)

Beijing Mission

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's two ministers of defense will fly to China on Tuesday to discuss help in demobilizing their country's armed forces.

Defense Minister Tea Banh said that he and his minister, Prince Sisowath Sirath, would hold high-level talks in Beijing.

Prime Minister Hun Sen reported after a visit to China in February that it had pledged \$1.5 million to aid demobilization. (Reuters)

Toll Reaches 87 in India Quake

Police Fear More Victims in Himalayan Foothills Near China

NEW DELHI — A severe earthquake struck India's Himalayan foothills Monday, toppling houses, causing landslides and killing at least 87 people, officials said.

Hundreds of road workers cleared away boulders and earth from one of four narrow roads leading to the towns and villages near the epicenter, which was 185 miles (300 kilometers) north of New Delhi. Helicopters evacuated the most serious of some 130 people injured.

India's seismological department said it was the strongest earthquake this century in the quake-prone mountains where the Indian Subcontinent meets the Asian land mass.

The 40-second quake jolted northern India just after midnight local time and had a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale, powerful enough to be "severe and damaging," the department said.

Police said scores were injured and the number of victims was likely to rise. With telephone lines severed, reports of casualties and damage were incomplete nearly a day after the quake.

Aftershocks rumbled across the green

mountains in quick succession immediately afterward and later on Monday. Frightened people refused to stay in their homes for fear of another big tremor, said B.M. Vohra, the commissioner of the Dehra Dun district.

Mr. Vohra said authorities were dealing with an urgent need for tents and food. Four helicopters and 300 rescue workers, mostly policemen and soldiers, were called into service.

About 90 percent of the houses in the town of Chamoli were destroyed or badly damaged, he said. Twelve tent camps were set up in Chamoli to house survivors, said Yogendra Narain, chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh, the state where the quake was centered.

The area is known as a seismic danger zone. The Himalayas, one of earth's youngest mountain ranges, are still growing and unstable. Eight tremors have been recorded this century measuring more than magnitude 6. One quake in 1991, measuring 6.1, killed more than 1,000 people near the town of Uttarkashi.

The quake Monday was felt on the other side of the Chinese border, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, the Xinhua news agency said.

INTERNATIONAL

Israeli Workers End Their Strike

JERUSALEM — A strike of public sector and government workers that paralyzed Israel ended Monday after all-night talks yielded an agreement between the Israeli government and the trade federation.

The compromise agreement between the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut Trade Federation grants the workers a 4.8 percent wage increase, 2.2 percent less than the workers target of a 7 percent increase.

"After a long sleepless night of discussions with the workers union, I am glad to say that we have reached a wage agreement," Finance Minister Meir Sheerit said.

Hundreds of thousands of Israeli government and public workers began the nationwide strike last week. Mounds of garbage accumulated on the streets. Railroads were shutdown. Traffic at Ben-Gurion International Airport was disrupted. Hospitals were shut except for emergency services.

The public sector's collective bargaining agreement expired in September.

The Finance Ministry wants to cap the raises at 3.1 percent for the last three months in 1998 and an additional 0.7 percent for 1999. The Histadrut wants a wage increase of 7 percent for late 1998 and an additional 4 percent for 1999.

Hopes for Democracy As Rwandans Vote

KIGALI, Rwanda — Rwandans gathered Monday in schools, stadiums and other public places to vote in the first elections since 1994, a poll seen by the authorities as a key step toward democracy.

In the poll that ends Wednesday, voters are due to elect a total of about 116,000 officials in Rwanda's 154 communes. The officials will make up local 10-member executive councils.

None of the candidates represents any political party, and there has been no electoral campaign. Officials have presented the vote as a move toward "participatory democracy," in a country still reeling from the mass slaughter of more than half a million minority Tutsi and moderate Hutu in 1994.

Paul Kagame, who seized power that year, set up a national unity government that included both Tutsi and Hutu, but the genocide left the judicial structure and much of its administration devastated.

BRIEFLY

Saddam Half-Brother Said to Be Interrogated

CAIRO — Barzan Tikriti, a half-brother of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, was interrogated in Iraq after one of his assistants fled the country and joined an opposition group, an Arabic newspaper reported Monday.

Two former ministers, three retired generals and members of the ruling Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party who met Mr. Barzan after his return to Baghdad from a diplomatic posting in Geneva last year also were interrogated, the London-based newspaper Al Hayat said.

It said official Iraqi sources denied claims of Mr. Barzan's interrogation and said he "will have the opportunity to play a major role" in Iraqi politics. Iraqi officials were not available for comment.

Mr. Barzan, who served as Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva for a decade, was recalled last summer in a diplomatic reshuffle ordered by Mr. Saddam. About two dozen other diplomats were also recalled. (AP)

Ethiopian War Claims Denied by Eritrea

NAIROBI — The Eritrean government Monday denied an Ethiopian claim that its troops had killed, wounded or captured 45,000 of Asmara's soldiers in their war since the end of February.

An Ethiopian statement issued Sunday said that "more than 45,000 enemy troops have been killed, wounded or captured," while "77 tanks have been destroyed and 19 tanks have been captured."

An Eritrean official said that "these figures are completely forged," according to Eritrea's ERINA news agency in a dispatch received here. (AFP)

For the Record

William Baez, the president of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, has asked the U.S. Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, to help speed approval of a \$956 million aid package for nations devastated by a recent hurricane. (AP)



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On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Hassan II, the National U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce takes pride in the bipartisan demonstration of support by undersigned US members of Congress and endorsed by J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in recognition of the enduring friendship and economic cooperation which binds the United States of America with the Kingdom of Morocco, the first country to recognize American independence.

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- The continued promotion of goodwill and understanding between our two nations through increased contact between respective parliaments with the view to heighten the strides that our two nations have made in unison aimed at the promotion of regional peace and stability on the foundation of tolerance and human dignity for all.
- The continued expansion of trade and investment between our two nations based on the realization of the unique advantages Morocco offers in tourism, industry and natural resources, and on the great opportunities it offers for American products, franchises and other commercial ties with the region.
- The continued expansion of cultural exchange between academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and through visits by scholars, political leaders and the media.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

No to Three Gorges Dam

In China, where even a slight relaxation in suppression of official policy, it is encouraging that some publications have cast an increasingly critical eye on the Three Gorges Dam being built on the Yangtze River.

The official line is that there is no turning back on a project that will destroy one of the world's great scenic areas, inundate hundreds of archaeological sites and force 1.3 million people to resettle elsewhere when the dam's 640-kilometer reservoir floods towns and farmlands. But the insoluble social, environmental and technical problems that have plagued the project cannot be wished away, and they may now be getting some consideration.

The dam has been a matter of internal disagreement within the Communist Party for some time. As far back as 1956, a vice minister of electric power, Li Rui, produced a report arguing for smaller dams on tributaries of the Yangtze rather than a 180-meter behemoth at the Three Gorges. In 1992, when the final vote to approve the Three Gorges project was taken in the National People's Congress, a third of the delegates abstained or voted against it, even though the dam was championed by Li Peng, who was then prime minister.

But all public debate on the project has been banned since the Tiananmen demonstrations in 1989. So it is noteworthy that the Chinese journal Strategy and Management, a publication with some links to the government, printed an article by a scholar under a pseudonym detailing the failure of resettlement efforts so far, and the extreme problems of relocating hundreds of thousands of people to steep hillsides that are barely habitable.

In February, the People's Daily, the party-controlled paper, ran articles on engineering issues and problems with excavating cultural relics that would be

destroyed in the flood zone. Other papers have reported on official corruption connected to the project. Chinese media reports have also noted that existing flood-control systems and older dams are neglected and in danger of collapse as attention is diverted to new projects like Three Gorges.

In December, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, who is considered neutral on the project, raised concerns about the project's safety and suggested that it might be necessary to bring in international experts to monitor the engineering. Li Peng, who now heads the National People's Congress, is expected to fight any retreat on the project. But the thaw in repression of criticism suggests that altering and even halting the project may yet be possible.

That is why it is crucial for American financial institutions to refrain from underwriting bonds for Chinese entities, like the State Development Bank, which finance construction of the dam. China cannot finance the dam, which is expected to cost well over \$25 billion, without foreign capital. The U.S. Export-Import Bank and the World Bank have refused to support the project because of its disastrous environmental and social consequences.

The world is beginning to change its views on large dams. The World Bank has sponsored creation of the independent World Commission on Dams to assess the effectiveness of such projects and alternatives, with a report due next year. Major dams have been stopped in midconstruction in Malaysia, India and Eastern Europe when the governments found that the benefits were uncertain and the costs enormous.

The Three Gorges Dam is a throwback to failed development strategies of decades past. This is an important moment to show China's leaders that the international community wants no part of this destructive, gargantuan project.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Inhumanity in Rangoon

Every now and then a single, sad event can pierce the fog of everyday distractions and illuminate, for all of us, the true nature of something or someone that has been in plain sight all along. Such a moment is provided by the untimely death on Saturday of Michael Aris, 53, a respected Oxford University professor of Tibetan studies.

The inhuman event was the refusal by Burma's dictators to provide a visa to Mr. Aris to visit his wife before he died. What is illuminated is the heartlessness, the sheer brutal stupidity, of that nation's military rulers.

Of course, for the 48 million people who have the misfortune to be ruled by Burma's junta, as well as for their friends around the world, this is not a revelation. Any number of people could testify to the evil of the regime: the families of students shot dead for taking part in peaceful demonstrations; the admirers of the Belgian honorary consul who died in jail for the crime of owning a facsimile machine; the thousands of political prisoners who have suffered, or suffer today, in the notorious Insein Prison; the tens of thousands of innocent peasants who have been pressed into slave labor.

But the names of most of those victims, both unwitting and courageously witting, never will be known to most of us. We do know, however, the name of Aung San Suu Kyi. Mr. Aris's wife—widow, now—and the rightful ruler of Burma. She and Mr. Aris met as students at Oxford long ago; they raised two sons, both now in their twenties; they held fast to a loving marriage against long odds. As devoted a wife and mother as she was, Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, felt that

she owed more to her country and the cause of democracy, and her husband supported her in that to the end.

Her National League for Democracy overwhelmingly won a parliamentary election in 1990, even though Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest at that time. The generals refused to honor the people's will, and they have kept Aung San Suu Kyi more or less locked up ever since. Their fondest wish is for her to leave the country, because they fear her integrity and popularity, but she will not give them that satisfaction. So they punished her by refusing to allow her husband or sons to visit her.

When Mr. Aris knew he was dying of cancer, he asked once more for a visa, without publicity, without any wish to cause embarrassment or score political points. He simply wished to see his wife, from whom he had been barred for three years, one more time. Even this the thugs who have turned all of Burma into a prison would not allow. And so he died without having seen her. "I feel so fortunate to have had such a wonderful husband, who has always given me the understanding I needed," Aung San Suu Kyi said in a statement devoid of politics. "Nothing can take that away from me."

Through their corruption and repressiveness, Burma's rulers have isolated themselves from the world. Only a few profit-seekers—Unocal of the United States, Total of France, arms merchants of China and Singapore, drug dealers throughout the world—engage in commerce with them. This latest act of inhumanity will reinforce the dictators' pariah status and, one can hope, hasten their demise.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment

'Emergency' With Iran

You may not have heard, but the United States is in a state of national emergency with Iran. Several days ago President Bill Clinton informed Congress that he was again declaring a state of emergency, for the fourth year in a row. You haven't heard about it because to one—including, presumably, the president—actually believes that such an emergency exists.

Instead, the declaration is a self-perpetuating bureaucratic fiction that is legally necessary to justify an elaborate

array of sanctions against Iran. These sanctions are increasingly irrelevant and blind Americans to the truth about how much Iran has changed.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced last June that the U.S. objective with Iran is to develop "a road map leading to normal relations." But there is a strange disconnect between America's words and its actions. While U.S. officials speak in a new tone of voice, all the elements of the old containment policy remain in place.

—GARY SLICK, commenting in The Washington Post

Toward Privatization of China's Communist Party

By Thomas L. Friedman

SHANGHAI — Visiting Shanghai is always a useful reminder of how frozen outsiders' perceptions of China are today, and how far reality has moved here.

To talk to Chinese is to understand that a "new deal" has been forged in the past decade between the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people. It is a messy, cynical, pragmatic deal, but it is the central political reality of China today, and it explains why America is winning here, not losing.

While Tiananmen in 1989 marked the end of the student-led democracy movement in China, it also marked the end of the Chinese Communist dictatorship as we know it. While China's leaders may have feigned indifference to the outside world, it is clear now that they realized that they almost lost it all in 1989, and that they needed a new bargain with their people in order to survive.

That new deal is as follows: We the Communist Party will remove ourselves from people's lives as never before. You can work where you want, live where you want, wear what you want, study abroad if you want, get from the Internet most of what you want and start a business if you want. In return, the

party will insist on only two things — that you dare not challenge its authority, and that you have only one child.

This new deal, and the flourishing of personal freedoms it delivered, help explain some of the internal stability of the past decade.

In 1989, many Chinese who took to the streets at Tiananmen, or passively supported it, came from homes with a bare lightbulb swinging from the ceiling, no television, no telephone, one Mao outfit and no prospects to improve their lives. That is not the case today.

I participated in a seminar at Shanghai's Fudan University, and was particularly struck by a professor who said: "We need a country in the world, like America, that has a dream to be perfect. And when America is telling China that it is violating basic human rights, we should admit that we have human rights problems. But today's China is better than yesterday's China. We have a way to improve. We feel our lives are better today, and we are not wrong."

The combination of rising incomes, rising opportunities and greater per-

sonal freedom has enabled the Communist Party to rule not only by repression but with the passive assent of China's silent majority. The party has bought itself some time.

But how much? That will depend in part on the government's ability to keep incomes and opportunities rising. If it stumbles, it is going to have to share power sooner.

But it will also depend on a new factor — the information revolution that is sweeping China. At the university and elite levels the Internet is now pervasive, and at the mass level there has been an entertainment revolution in the past two years, with the spread of cheap video compact disk players. Virtually every Hollywood film has been pirated here, and they are now being viewed everywhere in China. As a result, the gap between the Communist Party and the rest of China is growing wider and wider. The party is frozen and the country is running away from it.

Graham Barnshaw, who runs a booming Shanghai business designing Web pages, has been in China for more than 20 years. He remarked to me: "I was recently out visiting the Hope Group, which is a major grain company and the

largest private company in China. I was meeting with the chairman and there were two other people sitting there. I asked him about the company's relationship with the Communist Party.

"He pointed to the two guys sitting there and said, 'They are both Communist Party members, and my aim is to make them millionaires in two years.'"

No one knows how the political transition is going to happen here. But I do know that everything from American contract law to accounting standards to cultural messages is now winning here more each day.

America should keep hammering China on human rights and international norms. The Chinese leadership needs to hear that. But what is driving change here is the educational, commercial, entertainment and Internet interactions between millions of Chinese and the outside world, and that must never be aborted.

In Russia, the Communist Party tried to privatize Russian society and it failed. In China — if we are lucky — the Chinese people will privatize the Communist Party.

The New York Times

Talking Up a Supposed Chinese Menace Is a Bad American Habit

By Gregory Clark

TOKYO — Memories are

short. Robert McNamara, the former U.S. secretary of defense and architect of much Vietnam War strategy, has only just finished telling us that a mistakenly fearful view of Chinese intentions during the early 1960s was the main reason for the mistaken U.S. involvement in Indochina later.

Now already the United States and some of its allies, Japan included, are girding up for yet another bout of Asian military confrontation, with China once again being dragged out as bogeyman.

Common sense would normally say that the Chinese leaders are far more preoccupied with domestic affairs than with foreign adventures. In the territorial dispute with Japan over the Senkaku Islands, they are taking a far more moderate approach than anti-Communist Chinese nationalists elsewhere in Asia. In the United Nations and other international organizations they are trying

hard to show themselves as responsible members of the international community.

Over Taiwan, their position is far from unreasonable — that, as the United States, Japan and many others have in the past or currently made clear, the island is part of China. While Beijing will not use force to reunite with Taiwan, it retains the right to use force to prevent the island from claiming independence.

This is a right that many nations claim even when breakaway territories are ethnically or culturally very different from themselves. In the case of Taiwan, almost the entire population is ethnically and culturally Chinese, and the Taiwan authorities themselves long went out of their way to emphasize that they were indeed part of China.

Much is made of China's obvious desire to join the ranks of the world's top nuclear

powers. Few seem to recall that China in the 1950s, when it lacked nuclear weapons, was three times the recipient of nuclear threats from the United States: once during the Korean War, where China's right to intervene was not entirely zero, and twice over islands in the Taiwan Strait that clearly do belong to China.

The scenario for typically lopsided, tit-for-tat Cold War logic is now in place: Beijing strengthens its Taiwan Strait missile defenses, this is used to justify the installing of more missiles by the United States and Japan, which in turn pushes China further into hard-line defensive policies.

Many in the West seem to justify this kind of pushiness on the grounds that our hearts and values are pure and theirs are not. But such claims are dangerous. The other side may come to think that it has an equal claim to moral superi-

ority. This is especially true when the West actively seeks the cooperation of Japan, which has yet to show any sign of genuine regret for its former barbarous militarism in Asia.

For the West to be lecturing Beijing about minor human rights violations at precisely the moment when the world is beginning to discover how the West tolerated the brutal killing of hundreds of thousands in Guatemala, South Africa and elsewhere seems rather hypocritical.

Beijing is making serious attempts to introduce democracy at local levels. But very few Chinese, even moderates, believe that at the national level democracy can easily be introduced to a country as large, backward and still partially traumatized as China.

Western democracy is supposed to emphasize tolerance for other opinions. But when Chinese in Singapore and elsewhere say that in their opinion their system of benevolent but

strong central control operates better than Western-style democracy, the West seems to forget tolerance.

One weakness of the democratic system is the ease with which political parties can exploit alleged foreign threats to gain domestic support. Drag in the name of China — the big, inscrutable dragon of the western Pacific — and things swing even more in your favor.

The Republicans played the China-threat card to good domestic effect but magic foreign results in the 1950s and '60s. Bill Clinton tried it in his 1992 campaign against the Republicans. Now the wheel has turned full circle, with the Republicans back on the attack. It is time to remember the McNamara warning.

The writer, a former Australian diplomat and author of "In Fear of China," published in 1967, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Pity the Lonely Superpower That Can't Do Much Alone

By Samuel P. Huntington

CAMBRIDGE, Massachu-

setts — American officials quite naturally tend to act as if the world were unipolar. They boast of American power and American virtue, hailing the United States as a benevolent hegemon. They lecture other countries on the universal validity of American principles, practices and institutions.

At the 1997 summit of the Group of Seven in Denver, President Bill Clinton boasted about the success of the American economy as a model for others. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has called the United States "the indispensable nation" and said that "we stand tall and hence see further than other nations."

This latter statement is true in the narrow sense that the United States is an indispensable participant in any effort to tackle major global problems. It is false in also implying that other nations are dispensable, since the United States needs the cooperation of some major countries in handling any issue, and that American indispensability is the source of wisdom.

At the end of the Cold War, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States was often able to impose its will on other countries. That unipolar moment has passed.

The two principal tools of coercion that the United States now attempts to use are economic sanctions and military intervention.

Sanctions work, however, only when other countries also support them, and that is decreasingly the case. Hence, the United States either applies them unilaterally, to the detriment of its economic interests and its relations with its allies, or it does not enforce them, in which case they become symbols of American weakness.

At relatively low cost, the United States can launch bombing or cruise missile attacks against its enemies. By themselves, however, such actions achieve little.

More serious military interventions have to meet three conditions: They have to be legitimated through some international organization such as the United Nations, where they are subject to Russian, Chinese or French veto; they also require the participation of allied forces, which may or may not be forthcoming; and they have to involve no American casualties and virtually no "collateral" casualties.

Even if the United States meets all three conditions, it risks stirring up not only crit-

icism at home but widespread political and popular backlash abroad. American officials seem peculiarly blind to the fact that often the more the United States attacks a foreign leader, the more his popularity soars among his countrymen who applaud him for standing tall against the greatest power on earth.

The demonizing of leaders has so far failed to shorten their tenure in power, from Fidel Castro (who has survived eight American presidents) to Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein. Indeed, the best way for a dictator of a small country to prolong his tenure in power may be to provoke the United States into denouncing him as the leader of a "rogue regime" and a threat to global peace.

Neither the Clinton administration nor Congress nor the American public is willing to pay the costs and accept the risks of unilateral global leadership.

Some advocates of American leadership argue for increasing defense expenditures by 50 percent, but that is a nonstarter. The American public clearly sees no need to expend effort and resources to achieve American hegemony. However much foreign policy elites may ignore or deplore it, the United States lacks the domestic political base to create a unipolar world.

American leaders repeatedly make threats, promise action and fail to deliver. The result is a foreign policy of rhetoric and retreat, and a growing reputation as a hollow hegemon.

In acting as if this were a unipolar world, the United States is also becoming increasingly alone in the world. American leaders constantly claim to be speaking on behalf of "the international community." But whom do they have in mind? China? Russia? India? Pakistan? Iran? The Arab world? The Association of Southeast Asian Nations? Africa? Latin America? France? Do any of these countries or regions see the United States as the spokesman for a community of which they are a part?

The community for which the United States speaks includes, at best, its Anglo-Saxon cousins (Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) on most issues, Germany and some smaller European democracies on many issues, Israel on some Middle Eastern questions, and Japan on the implementation of UN resolutions. These are important states, but they fall far

short of being the global international community.

On issue after issue, the United States has found itself alone, with one or a few partners, opposing most of the rest of the world's states and peoples. These issues include UN debates, the land mines treaty, global warming, an international war crimes tribunal, the Middle East, use of force against Iraq and Yugoslavia, sanctions against Cuba, Iran, Iraq and Libya.

On such issues, much of the international community is on one side and the United States is on the other. The circle of governments which see their interests coinciding with American interests is shrinking.

While America regularly denounces various countries as "rogue states," in the eyes of many countries it is becoming the rogue superpower.

If a unipolar world were unavoidable, many countries might prefer the United States as the hegemon. But this is mostly because it is distant from them and hence unlikely to attempt to acquire any of their territory.

American power is also valued by the secondary regional states as a constraint on the dominance of other major regional powers. Benign hegemony, however, is in the eye of the hegemon.

"One reads about the world's desire for American leadership only in the United States," a British diplomat observed. "Everywhere else one reads about American arrogance and unilateralism."

Political and intellectual leaders in most countries strongly resist the prospect of a unipolar world and favor the emergence of true multipolarity.

At a 1997 Harvard conference, scholars reported that the elites of countries comprising at least two-thirds of the world's people — Chinese, Russians, Indians, Arabs, Muslims and Africans — see the United States as the single greatest external threat to their societies.

They do not regard America as a military threat but as a menace to their integrity, autonomy, prosperity and freedom of action. They view it as intrusive, interventionist, exploitative, unilateralist, hegemonic, hypocritical and applying double standards, engaging in what they label "financial imperialism" and "intellectual colonialism," with a foreign policy driven overwhelmingly by domestic politics.

Such reactions are to be expected. American leaders be-

lieve that the world's business is their business. Other countries believe that what happens in their part of the world is their business, not America's. As Nelson Mandela said, his country rejects another state's having "the arrogance to tell us where we should go or which countries should be our friends." He added, "We cannot accept that a state assumes the role of the world's policeman."

In a bipolar world, many countries welcomed the United States as their protector against the other superpower. In today's world, in contrast, the world's only superpower is automatically a threat to other major powers.

It would behoove Americans to stop acting and talking as if the world were unipolar. It is not. To deal with any major global issue, America needs the cooperation of at least some major powers. Unilateral sanctions and interventions are recipes for foreign policy disasters.

NATO May Be Fortifying Milosevic

SLOBODAN Milosevic has charmed many a visitor. He speaks excellent English and receives incoming diplomats at the former royal palaces in Belgrade. He treats them royally.

He understands the weakness of Western democracies — NATO nations, EU nations, the United States. He sees that they are not fully united or prepared to commit ground troops. He exploits every angle and

controls every institution of Yugoslav society. And now it is my deep worry that the bombing of Yugoslavia by NATO has provided this cunning dictator with yet another new lease on life, consolidated the common people around his regime and made him, in effect, a king if not an emperor.

—Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, writing in Newsweek.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Dividing China

NEW YORK — The San Francisco "Call" says: "On general principles the Powers have no more right to divide China than to steal the canary-colored shirt of Li-Hung-Chang. Nevertheless, if all the reports of butchery and outrage in that country be confirmed, the only fear is that the Powers may fail to divide the antique barbarism into pieces small enough."

1924: Fortune-Tellers

BUDAPEST — Female fortune-tellers, dream exponents and quacks of all kinds have grown so numerous here in connection with the unsettled general conditions and the wild speculations on the Bourse, that the police authorities have made a great raid upon them. Twenty-two of them were haled to the police headquarters; but many others, evidently blessed

with second sight, foresaw trouble and managed to escape. The arrested prophesies, some of whom have amassed fortunes in sound foreign currencies, will be banished from the capital.

1949: Yugoslav News

BELGRADE — The Yugoslav government denounced published reports of uprisings, purges and troop movements in Yugoslavia as "senseless fabrications." Among the "senseless fabrications being systematically disseminated" it listed those concerning: "Increasing tension in Yugoslavia, sabotage, an uprising of 'anti-Tito partisans,' battles on the Yugoslav borders near the Free Territory of Trieste, mobilization of doctors in Slovenia, troop maneuvers in Istria, actions taken against armed bands, mass dismissal of 'anti-Tito' elements, and so forth."

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OPINION/LETTERS

Bioterrorism Panic Rises, But Is It Truly Justified?

By Daniel S. Greenberg

WASHINGTON — No doubt there are nuns and demons out there planning evil things. But it should be noted that there is a whiff of hysteria and budget opportunism in the scary scenarios of the saviors who have stepped forward against the menace of bioterrorism.

The rising din about bioterrorism in the United States is dominated by one faction — people who say the problem exists, and they should be trusted to deal with it. While a glib press echoes its warnings, there are no independent assessments of the potential for terrorist attacks or the practicality of the proposed responses.

Federal money is tight for health and human services, but the bioterrorism budget bandwagon is rolling in the Department of Health and Human Services. In response to a Presidential Decision Directive last May, \$144 million was added to the paltry \$14 million originally budgeted this year by the department for "bioterrorism preparedness." For the coming year, the White House proposes \$230 million. Given the excited warnings emanating from supposedly expert quarters, even larger funds are bound to be requested and appropriated.

The money is intended for detection systems, training and coordinating response teams, and vaccine development and stockpiling. With terrorism certified by the Clinton administration as the foreign menace of the moment, the money comes easily from a compliant Congress. Who dares risk the opprobrium of being wrong?

In academia, the opportunities in bioterrorism have been recognized. At Johns Hopkins University, there is a newly established Center for Biodefense Studies, the scope of whose activities "will depend substantially on the resources made available," according to a fact sheet from the center. For starters, it says, \$1 million is required "if an impact is to be made in the near term." But \$3

million to \$5 million is described as "more appropriate as an investment for a problem of this magnitude and scope."

Given the real possibility of events proving them horribly wrong, few doubters have gone public. However, skeptics quietly point out that deadly biological substances are difficult, though not impossible, to acquire, and are difficult to spread. Though nothing can be ruled out in the strategies of terrorism, the payoff from a germ attack — assuming it can be carried out successfully — is open to doubt. There can be little, if any, political or spiritual profit in the worldwide revolution that would ensue.

Many of the measures proposed for countering bioterrorism are obviously useful for public health emergencies unrelated to germ warfare. But their effectiveness against a skillful, determined attack, or even a crude amateur attack, is open to question. The menace is unknown, though probably far less than the alarmists would have us believe, and the proposed protections are unproven and probably in large part illusory.

Despite the drumbeating, the U.S. public seems uninterested. Smallpox has been eliminated worldwide as a disease, but it is considered possible that hidden stores of the virus might enter the bioterrorist arsenal. Since smallpox is highly infectious and deadly, the ideal defense would be a resumption of worldwide vaccinations. Does the terrorism threat warrant the gargantuan, costly effort that would be required? Who would pay for it?

Nasty people and the ingredients for bioterrorism were all in place more than a decade ago. Why now the drumbeating? The bioterrorism panic invites many questions. So far, there are few answers.

The writer, a science journalist, contributed this comment to *The Washington Post*.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The War in Kosovo

"The NATO attack on Serbia was long overdue. It is high time the Serbs got the message that they can no longer conduct aggression, war crimes and ethnic cleansing with impunity. This kind of barbarism is unacceptable."

From 1991 to 1995, Western nations did virtually nothing to stop Serbian and Croatian war crimes and again during the past year dithered over Kosovo.

For the first time, they have taken military action to defend basic human and political rights in the former Yugoslavia.

Serbs are outraged that their territory has been bombed, and are trying to portray themselves as victims, but they refuse to see that NATO's action is the result of their own reprehensible conduct.

NYEGOSH DUBE, Warsaw.

Barton Gellman's report (*IHT*, March 24) that the United States and its NATO allies "tried mightily to prevent the return of war to Kosovo" is surprising at best.

Nothing "mighty" has been done by the international community during the last ten years.

Rather than rattling sabers to solve a problem that predates 1389, the West should have worked with the remnants of Serbia's civil society. Could not our universities, political parties, trade unions and religious groups have made contact with similar groups in Serbia?

ANTON SMITSENDONK, Saint-Cloud, France.

The writer is a former Dutch ambassador to Yugoslavia.

So now we rain bombs on a country because it uses its army and police to combat secessionist violence. The bombs find no sanction in international law, treaties or practice, nor in United Nations resolutions. The bombs set a dangerous precedent and give dangerous license. History's judgment will not be kind.

CARL G. JACOBSEN, Ottawa.

As an American, I wish to express my total opposition to the

attack on Yugoslavia. I am appalled by the chilling words used by General Wesley Clark to describe the goal of the NATO operation. He said the bombing aimed to "devastate" and "destroy" the Yugoslav forces, language that is reminiscent of the destruction of the United States inflicted on Vietnam, another country which had not threatened or attacked the United States.

HAROLD TITTMANN, Brussels.

With all the information in the press about the current war effort to combat Serbian atrocities and intransigence, one element is conspicuous by its absence: How does Slobodan Milosevic maintain a huge military establishment and its expensive modern weapons when his country has been subject to sanctions and has an economy only slightly better than Iraq's? Is it possible that the money the IMF has provided to Russia has been used to pay for the Serbian military?

R. D. SMITH, Thonon, France.

Race Relations in America Show Some Improvement

By Geneva Overholser

WASHINGTON — Race relations have been touchy in Britain lately. So when an Englishman who has lived for a long time in America goes home and declares that, however hot things have gotten in England, they are still much worse in the United States, you have to wonder: How bad are America's race relations? The English controversy swirls around a recent inquiry into the

MEANWHILE

murder six years ago of a black teenager by white youths. The handling by the police of that murder was "marred by... institutional racism," the report says.

In the middle of all this, Andrew Sullivan returned to the home he left 15 years ago for a journalism career in the United States. And what he found most striking was the racial integration.

The inquiry turned up evidence of inequality. Mr. Sullivan wrote in the *Guardian Weekly*, "But compared with the racial tension I feel every day in Washington, the ethnic mix in Loodoo seems remarkably at ease."

Racial tension in Washington is undeniable. Last year the city got a new chief management officer — a white woman. A Washington Post headline said, "D.C. Appointment Prompts Racial Reaction."

Now Washington has a new mayor, Anthony Williams. He is black. But an opinion article published in *The Post* earlier this year asked if he was "black enough"? Maybe a desire to answer that led to Mr. Williams's foolish reaction when an administrator used the serviceable, if awkward, word "niggardly" around a black colleague who preferred complaining about the sound of it to understanding what it meant. The mayor accepted the administrator's resignation, then brought him back in a different job.

These incidents are hardly the sum of race relations in Washington. Black and white kids in

school together, black and white colleagues at work, black and white relationships in almost every day-to-day dealing — these, too, define life in Washington. And most of these dealings are — well, simply ordinary.

It would be nice to think that this truth — that leading lives side by side is what produces normality in human relations — is going to be America's racial salvation. Eventually, we will all marry one another and neither know nor care what color anyone is. Racial intermarriages are soaring — growing by more than 800 percent from 1960 to 1990, *The New York Times* reported recently. About one in 25 couples in America today is interracial. But most of these marriages are between whites and Asians or Hispanics. The increase in black-white marriages is lower.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, executive director of the Black Leadership Forum, said in an address to the Library of Congress last month: "It will be a very long time before the overwhelming number of African-Americans will appear to be anything other than African-Americans. There is no avoidance in delay. We must get on with the business of racial reconciliation."

A fear of that kind of progress drives some people into white supremacist organizations such as the Council of Conservative Citizens — the group with which Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi and Representative Bob Barr of Georgia have been associated. Both say they had no idea the council advocated white supremacy and separatism. Baloney. A glance at the council's literature shows that unabashed racism is the point.

Meanwhile, animosity breaks down gradually but surely through the kind of association that Mr. Sullivan observed on the streets of London. And whatever the headlines say, there is quite a lot of that on the streets of Washington — and in many other American cities as well.

The Washington Post.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

THERE is no adventure that has got as bad a press as the venerable King's Gambit. One of its greatest protagonists, the Austrian Rudolph Spielmann, a genius of attack, wrote about his disillusionment in the 1920's piece, "From the Sickbed of the King's Gambit." There are so many diverse defenses to the gambit that to play it with confidence, one has to be an encyclopedia on something that occurs rarely.

Aleksei Fedorov, a 26-year-old grandmaster from Belarus, ran away with the Goodricke International Open Tournament in Calcutta, India, with a 9-2 score, a point and a half ahead of his nearest rivals. Here is a King's Gambit that sped him on his way. His opponent was Narayanan Neelakantan of India.

KING'S GAMBIT			
White	Black	White	Black
Fedorov	Neel'tan	Fedorov	Neel'tan
1. e4	e5	14. c5	bc
2. f4	exf4	15. cd	Bf3
3. Nf3	Be7	16. cd	Ng6
4. Bc4	Bb4	17. Bg6	Bg2
5. Kf1	d5	18. Kg2	fg
6. ed	Be7	19. Qe7	Qe4
7. d4	Bd6	20. Rf2	Rf6
8. Bb3	Bg4	21. Ne4	Qh4
9. c4	b5	22. Kf1	Qh3
10. Ne3	Ne7	23. Ke1	Rf7
11. Bc2	b6	24. Qe8	Rf8
12. Qe1	b4	25. Nf6	gf
13. Qb4	Qd7	26. Qe6	Kh6
		27. Rg1	Resigns

Although a vast majority of the world's top players in the 20th century have frowned upon the King's Gambit, daring players in every generation have taken it up. And not just to play for mate: positional geniuses like Richard Reti and Akiba Rubinstein used it enthusiastically to fight for control of the center.

The Cunningham Defense, introduced by 3...Be7, reaches a crossroads after 4. Bc4: the steadfast continuation, 4...Nf6 5. e3 Ng4 was seen in a Fedorov-Soldatkov game, St. Petersburg, Russia, 1996, which proceeded 6. d4 d5 7. Bb3 Ne3 8. Bc3 fe3 9. O-O Be6 10. Qd3 c6 11. Qe3 Na6 12. Nbd2 Ne7 13. e3 h6 14. Rf2 Qd7 15. Nf1 O-O-O, yielding a spatial advantage to White; the ambitious 4...Bb4 5. Kf1, which Neelakantan chooses, hopes to exploit the displaced white king.

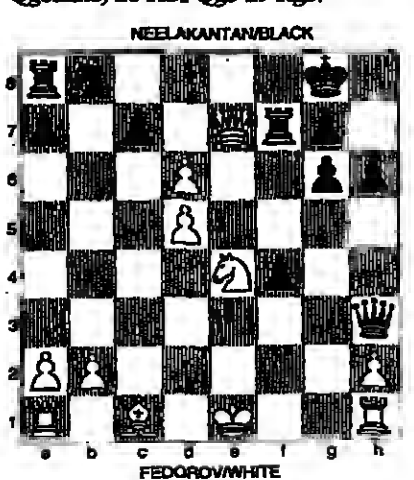
But this requires the immediate return of the gambit pawn with 5...d5. Otherwise, Black will have difficulty completing his development. In place of the old capture, 6. Bd5, which allows 6...Nf6, Fedorov chose 6. ed!, which may be more efficient in retarding Black's mobilization.

After 13. Qb4, the best Neelakantan had was 13...Bf5 14. Ne4 Qd7 15. Ne5! 16. Bc5 Ne3 17. Qe2 Be4 18. Bc4 Ne5 19. Qd4 Ng6. He still has his pawn, although the white bishops can become dangerous. Instead, he erred with 13...Qd7?, and Fedorov charged with 14. c5! One point was that 14...bc 15. cd Bc5 loses a piece to 16. Ne5. Another

was that 14...Ng6 15. Bg6 Be7 only gets Black a lost endgame following 16. c6! Bb4 17. cd Bf3 18. Bf5 Bb5 19. Bf4.

Neelakantan tried 14...bc 15. cd Bf3 16. cd Ng6 17. Bg6 Bg2 18. Kg2 fg, evidently hoping to escape, up some chances against the exposed white king. But Fedorov cleverly played the sharp 19. Qe7! Qg4 20. Rf2 Rf6 21. Ne4! Qh4 22. Kf1 Qh3 23. Ke1 Rf7 24. Qe8 Rf8 25. Nf6! gf 26. Qe6 Kh6 27. Rg1 and Neelakantan surrendered.

The only way to stop 28. Qg7 mate was to lose his queen with 27...Qh4 (27...Qd7 28. Qe6 Qe7 29. Qf8 ends in 29...Qg8 30. Qg8mate) 28. Kd1 Qg5 29. Rg5.



THE GARDENS OF LIGHT

By Amin Maalouf. Translated from the French by Dorothy S. Blair. 242 pages. \$25. Interlink.

Reviewed by Wendy Orent

SOMETIME in the third century after Christ, a great religious movement washed through Asia, from the gardens of Ctesiphon, seat of the Parthian Kings, to forgotten cities on the south coast of India, and over the Himalayas into China. Waves of it rippled west and north as well: The beautiful queen of Palmyra, Zenobia, was a convert, and the Romans listened, a little, as they did to every creed in their empire. St. Augustine was a follower, in the days before he became a pastor.

The influence of this religion could be felt, centuries later, in the mountain fastnesses of the Cathars in southern France: Montségur, Peyreperouse, Carcassonne. But all we have of Manichaeism now is the name, a slight understanding that that old creed referred to a sort of dualism, and, among the more fundamentalist-minded, a sense or taint of heresy.

In his 1991 novel "The Gardens of Light," published now for the first time in the United States, the French-Lebanese writer Amin Maalouf attempts to give us back the life of Mani, founder of this vanished faith. Writing about a sage is difficult; men driven by madness or inspiration to found new orders of existence easily devolve into caricatures or icons, remote and inhuman, with a cold glitter in their eyes. Mani is no Leo the African, the

refulgent hero of Maalouf's dazzling first novel, "Leo Africanus." He is cool, remote but kind, capable of tenderness and affection but not, perhaps, of love. And yet Maalouf's Mani has the ring of life.

Pulled from his mother's arms at the age of 3, Mani is brought to live in a palm grove, the youngest in a strict Christian sect, the White-Robed Brethren. Subtle and rebellious, he creates a separate life out of fragments of solitude. He learns to paint by restoring an old Greek fresco that is pagan and alluring; he is wracked by guilt until an inner voice, his Celestial Twin, speaks and assures him that all beauty, pagan or otherwise, is a reflection of the God of Light. This celestial revelation is the first sign of Mani's calling: Throughout his life, he turns to this inner voice for advice and consolation.

Mani stays with the White-Robed Brethren until the age of 24. He casts off his white robes and, dressed in gaudy colors, goes (or is booted by the outraged brethren) out into the world. He begins to preach his strange new syncretic doctrine, with no priests, no sacrifices, no rules but the lightest (do not kill trees or animals, do not wound the earth, do not let wise men perish). People — irrespective of caste, race, sex — are compounded of light and darkness: The human task is to bring more light into the world through the cultivation of art and beauty, and through refusing to act for personal advantage or to hurt any living thing. And people follow him, by the hundreds, by the thousands, some drawn by his message, others by the messenger himself.

The centuries before and after Christ witnessed a sea of prophets, each with a divine message, with laws, prohibitions, revelations and restraints. But only Mani — so far as we know — asked for tolerance and not for swords or sacrifice. Shapur, the Sassanian King of Kings, protects Mani, but the powerful priests of Zoroaster, the Magi, are enraged by his profound subversiveness.

The burden of this novel is the same as the burden of all Maalouf's novels — "Leo Africanus," "The First Century After Babel," "The Rock of Tanios," "Samaritanland": an insistence that tolerance and a generous vision are essential to human life. Maalouf's conviction, if you pull it from the shining drapery of his books, may seem otherworldly, even fey, in a world where identity politics is the intellectual order of the times.

Except Maalouf is so naïf: No writer with so broad a grasp of history can preserve his illusions. We see the genesis of Mani's peculiar vision; we watch it flower; and we know its end — there is never any illusion about the fate of a religion and a prophet who will not fight or struggle for power. Christ may have instructed his followers to maim the other cheek, but had they listened, it would be Christ who is forgotten now.

But we are left, after reading this sad, glowing book, with the persistent sense that some shard of Mani's vision survives the wreck of the centuries.

Wendy Orent, a writer in Atlanta, wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Alliance Fears That Refugees May Foster Instability

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — As NATO planes carry out nearly continuous assaults against Yugoslavia, the Western alliance faces a grave new challenge: How to prevent a wave of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo from destabilizing the fragile governments of Albania and Macedonia — and possibly the rest of southeastern Europe.

NATO has long feared that instability in Macedonia, a former republic of Yugoslavia and now an independent country, would trigger a scramble by its neighbors to grab chunks of territory they have long claimed.

More than 400,000 Albanians live in Macedonia's western borderlands, prompting concerns that they might move to join a "greater Albania" encompassing Kosovo and Albania proper.

Greece has contested even the legitimacy of Macedonia's name because of lingering border disputes. Bulgaria, which abuts both countries, also contains a volatile ethnic mixture that could explode if present borders crumble.

Most of all, NATO officials fear that any Balkan upheaval involving Greece would inevitably draw in its arch-rival, Turkey, pitting two NATO militaries against each other.

So far, NATO's response to the growing humanitarian crisis has been to ratchet up the level of bombing and embark on a second phase that will emphasize targets related to the Yugoslav crackdown in Kosovo.

Allied commanders said the primary sites to be struck over the next few days would include command and control centers and supply and ammunition dumps, as well as Yugoslav tanks and troop concentrations in Kosovo.

But there are signs of fresh tensions between NATO military and political leaders over how to conduct the bombing campaign in a way that would address the humanitarian crisis more directly.

General Wesley Clark, NATO's supreme commander and the man who is orchestrating the air campaign, has said he needed many more than 400 aircraft to carry out an effective bombing campaign to thwart Yugoslav operations in the field and not just decimate air defenses, according to NATO sources. Several allied governments, including the United States, have pledged to send at least two dozen more aircraft that could provide the kind of close air support that is needed to hamper ground actions.

"If you want to stop what looks like genocide with just air power, you are going to need a lot more firepower so that you can go in hard and fast," said a senior NATO commander.

"But that also involves some risks that we must be prepared to take if we want to achieve our goals."

When the United States and its European allies launched the bombing campaign last week, leaders on both sides of the Atlantic justified the action as necessary to prevent the crisis in Kosovo from spilling across international borders.

Now, political and military leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seek to refute arguments that the air strikes — far from deterring President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia from waging a scorched-earth campaign through Kosovo — have only intensified the misery and accelerated the exodus of ethnic Albanians, contributing to the very catastrophe that their policy was supposed to prevent.

"Whether we bombed or not, Milosevic would have done this," General Clark said in a phone interview.

"There was clearly a long-term plan worked out many months ago. We saw preparations well under way even before last month's peace negotiations, and they swung into high gear within the past two weeks."

In Macedonia, where 12,000 alliance troops originally destined to serve as Kosovo peacekeepers are based, the government has demanded full NATO protection against any Yugoslav attacks or attempts to disrupt a delicate ethnic balance that includes Muslim Albanians and Orthodox Christian Serbs.

Senior U.S. officials said they had concluded beyond any doubt that violent demonstrations week at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia's capital, were organized and conducted by an ethnic Serb party acting on orders from Belgrade.

"This was vintage Milosevic," said an American official with extensive experience in the region.

Some military strategists believe that the alliance needs to take more drastic action by considering the use of special operations forces that could be flown in by helicopter to attack the Serb paramilitary forces that are conducting the worst atrocities.

But that step is a giant leap for politicians fearful of public outcry against sending ground troops into the Balkans. Kosovo's treacherous terrain and logistical difficulties of sending in ground forces too immense to bear serious consideration, many military analysts say.

"Our best bet is to pray for good weather, hope their air defenses have been knocked out to a significant degree and send in attack helicopters and low-flying aircraft that can blast the hell out of these war criminals," a NATO official said.

"It would be too unrealistic, for both political and military reasons, to ask anything more."



A Muslim and her grandson who fled the Serbian region of Sanjak, where they feared reprisals, arriving at a Sarajevo bus station on Monday.

NATO: Air War Will Be Long, Clark Warns

Continued from Page 1

Clark said the air war would be long and difficult, and that NATO was not yet at the point where it could consider a ground invasion.

"The Primakov visit was not suggested by Washington," Mr. Rubin said. NATO turned the thrust of its air strikes Monday against Serb troops and paramilitary police units in Kosovo in a race against time as "ethnic cleansing" intensified.

Amid reports of the executions of five prominent Kosovars, including a top adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, the leading representative of the province's ethnic Albanian majority, the alliance said on the sixth day of bombing that it was trying to block a Serbian sweep on the ground designed to "ethnically re-engineer" the disputed province by forcing the civilian population from large areas around the capital, Pristina, and in the north near the border with Serbia.

Jamie Shea, the NATO spokesman, said that by driving out ethnic Albanians and decimating their professional and political elites, Belgrade apparently was hoping to improve its position on the ground in advance of any negotiations to end the conflict. This presumably could include partition of the province, with Serbia poised to annex those parts of Kosovo with mineral wealth and historic connections to Serbia.

Air Commodore David Wilby of Britain said that Serbian air defenses — the focus of attacks during the first five nights of the allied air war — had been "shaken" and seemed to be weakening significantly. But the air defenses, he added, were "not down; they never will be completely."

He went on to indicate that NATO commanders were gaining confidence that they could risk ordering daylight bombing raids — almost all attacks so far have been launched at night — by using highly evasive fighter-bombers covered by warplanes equipped to immediately suppress any surface-to-air missiles.

"He's beginning to run out of options," Mr. Shea, the NATO spokesman, said.

Satellite Launched From Floating Pad

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, California — A dummy satellite is orbiting 23,000 miles above Earth, signaling success for an innovative launching pad floating in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The demonstration launching Saturday was a critical step for Sea Launch Co., which has put \$500 million into the first commercial marine-based launching system in hopes of capturing a chunk of the growing business of lifting communications satellites into orbit.

"You can indeed launch a rocket of that size from a floating platform," said Tim Dolan, spokesman for the U.S. aerospace giant Boeing, which owns part of Sea Launch.

The Ukrainian and Russian-built Zenit-3SL rocket carried a dummy satellite as it lifted off from the Odyssey, a converted oil rig stationed 1,400 miles (2,250 kilometers) south of Hawaii.

Fueled by kerosene and liquid oxygen, the three-stage rocket ignited then rapidly hurtled toward space. About an hour later, the satellite separated from the third stage at an altitude of 1,200 miles and continued on toward its planned position 23,000 miles above Earth.



Macedonian soldiers blocking a road at the Kosovo border on Monday.

Bombs Undo Belgrade's Urban Poise

Anger, Beer and Fear Send Crowds of Youths on Anti-NATO Rampage

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — Along Belgrade's loveliest shopping street, Knez Mihajlova, groups of young men filled with chauvinism, anger, beer and fear completed the trashing Monday of the American Center, the British Council, the Goethe Institute and the French Cultural Center, as scattered policemen watched and chatted among themselves.

The impact of the stones shattering the windows seemed in rhythm with the sounds of another patriotic concert in the city center, headlined by Ceca Raznjajovic, wife of the notorious Serbian paramilitary leader Zeljko Raznjajovic, known as Arkan.

"Ceca" was famous, a Serbian Cher, before she married Arkan, a proud pioneer of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. But she has taken to doing music videos with a live tiger cub, a reference to the name of Arkan's brigades, the Tigers.

As ordinary Belgraders walked by, or stood to watch the destruction, the young stooped to spray-painted obscene graffiti on the walls, comparing NATO to the Nazis and making snide references to President Bill Clinton's sex life. Like many of the passersby, they wore the "target" logo that has swept wartime Belgrade like the flu, a gesture of ironic contempt toward NATO's bombs, a gesture made more palatable by the fact that no NATO bombs have struck the populated center of the capital.

"I'm ashamed to see this," said Zalklina, a medical doctor dressed in a fashionable, pale beige suit. "But you know the bombs have made people crazy. They crack the veneer of civilization, as if war excuses anything."

She laughed then, saying, "Anyway, they are bored with being down in the shelters, with the grannies."

Belgrade is a city where people say "ciao" and drink espresso, judge the latest Hollywood movies with asperity and surf the net. But the war is dragging it further from Europe into isolation, uniting the Serbs behind their soldiers, their Kosovo and even President Slobodan Milosevic.

American movies are gone from the theaters as unapologetic, even if "Original Levi's Store" across from the American Center was left untrashed by the mobs.

"People used to say that only God could unify the Serbs," said Aleksa Djilas, the historian son of the late Milovan Djilas, who was the most famous dissident of the Tito period. "But now they've been unified from heaven, but

by the bombs, not by God."

No one really feels they deserve to be bombed, Mr. Djilas said, "even if they know that Milosevic's policies have played a big role."

At the same time, the regime has urged citizens to run to the air raid shelters for 12 or 15 hours a day, understanding that the collective panic will also provide a sense of solidarity with the nation and its military.

"But if you refuse to go down, or say that there is no point in it, people get very angry," said Ilija, a former journalist in his 50's. "People think you're challenging their plight or somehow saying that it's right that they're sitting in a shelter."

There is much more suspicion around, with rumors of Western spies and local dissidents planting "locators" or radar guidance devices, to ensure that NATO's bombs find their targets. Some Serbs insist, conversely, that some "locators" have been planted in the hotels where journalists are staying, but designed not to guide the bombs, but deflect them.

And the city authorities, while deciding now that it is safer to keep Belgrade's street lights on, still insist that curtains be drawn after 6 P.M., as if NATO's modern weapons still depended on illuminated living rooms to find their targets.

Still, as Yugoslavia faces its sixth day of bombing without major civilian casualties, people are becoming inured to the sharp wail of the sirens. Fewer spend all night in the shelters, but there is little else to do, with nearly all the restaurants, clubs, cafes and movie theaters shutting down at dusk.

"There is a deepening sense of boredom — the war is really very boring, especially with this monotonous war propaganda on the news," said a cosmopolitan Serb who asked not to be identified. "My son is bored; he can't go out, except to visit friends in their shelters, where it's boring; my little one is bored, because all her favorite cartoons like Power Rangers have been replaced by these interminable news programs."

So people are renting armfuls of videos, especially comedies, like "You've Got Mail."

Yet the Serbs remain resourceful and ironic. A basement cafe downtown has renamed itself "The Shelter Cafe," offering satellite television along with coffee and drinks. A placard put up in a window along Knez Mihajlova read: "F-117A. Crashed. Low mileage. Foreign license plates. Cheap. Call after 4 P.M."

ALBANIA: Refugees Threaten to Overwhelm Poor Nation

Continued from Page 1

Nuhi Mazrekta, a 46-year-old schoolteacher from Manisheva, said Serbs in his village had methodically broken all the baby carriages they could find.

"It's not a pleasant story," said Eugene O'Sullivan, head of the European security organization's observer mission in Kukes. "A lot of them got a knock on the door in the morning and were told to leave."

"It depended on who was doing the ethnic cleansing," he said. "Some were given an hour or so to get their things together. Others were not so lucky. They were just told to go."

"There was a final vetting at the border, where they were taking necklaces and rings from the ladies, and stereos and the better cars," Mr. O'Sullivan continued. "There is a consistency going through these stories that, while we can't independently confirm them, it seems impossible to be made up."

Mr. O'Sullivan said the final step in the exodus of the ethnic Albanians had been the confiscation by Serbs of their passports, identity papers and even license plates, "so these people no longer exist as far as they are concerned." Accounts from refugees agreed.

"I think this is particularly evil," Mr. O'Sullivan, who has served with international agencies in Africa and Bosnia, said by mobile phone. "It's very difficult to see how this can be stopped."

European observers near the border could see villages in flames, including Oranovac, a major settlement in the agricultural region northwest of Prizren, the area that appeared to be home to most of the refugees.

The chief representative of the rebel Kosovars here — Ilaz Ramajli, with an office in the diplomatic quarter of this ramshackle capital — said he had reports of a column of refugees some eight kilometers (five miles) long on the way to Montenegro from Pec. Montenegro is the last state still allied with Serbia in what is left of the former Yugoslavia, but has been showing increasing signs of independence from Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader.

Thousands of other refugees have streamed into Macedonia, — also once part of Yugoslavia — causing increased tension there, including violent demonstrations against the U.S. Embassy.

Most of the refugees were women, children and old people. European officials said they did not know whether the men of fighting age might have slipped into the forest, joined rebel bands or, perhaps, met a fate that one described as "somewhat worse than that."

Once the last Stalinist bastion of the Eastern bloc under the dictator Enver Hoxha, Albania of late has slid into anarchy and is ill-equipped to help its fleeing ethnic brethren. What little order there was dissolved a few years back in widespread anti-government rioting over a failed nationwide investment scheme that saw most of the army's weapons looted, up to and including tanks. Roads have crumbled, gangsters are the major force in what there is of the economy and, Western officials here say, there is virtually no infrastructure.

The government beld an emergency

meeting Sunday of a special committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ilija Meta to attempt to cope with the crisis.

Some 100 buses, government officials said, would be sent up the rough roads to Kukes to bring refugees back to the capital in hopes local families would take them in. But a main outcome of the meeting was a call for help from foreign aid donors.

President Rexhep Mejdani called Sunday for NATO to send ground troops into Kosovo as the only way to stop what he called "monstrous crimes" and "ethnic cleansing and depopulation."

Mr. Ramajli, the local representative of the "Republic of Kosovo" — the independent state ethnic Albanians have proclaimed in their embattled province — made a similar appeal in a meeting with a group of American correspondents.

"I know how difficult it is to take this decision, especially for President Bill Clinton, but I think this is the right time for the U.S. to intervene on the ground," Mr. Ramajli said.

Mr. Clinton has insisted that no ground troops will be sent to Kosovo and

that air power alone will be used to accomplish NATO's goals — which, at this point, appear somewhat murky.

As darkness fell, about 8,000 people gathered in Skanderbeg Square for a rally in support of NATO and the Kosovars.

At the offices of the UN High Commission for Refugees, the main relief agency, Jim Worrall, the field coordinator, struggled to pull together tents, mattresses, beds and the trucks to deliver them.

"The infrastructure here is nonexistent; a large influx is going to create problems," he said. "We'll never get enough stuff up there. It's a day up, a day to unload, a day back. I dispatched trucks this morning. I don't know when I'll see them again."

The difficulties were compounded, he added, because just at the time the aid agencies were meeting to evaluate needs for this year, the U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke appeared to have made a peace agreement with Mr. Milosevic.

"Everybody was hoping for a political settlement," he said.

RESCUE: Team Picks Up Downed Pilot

Continued from Page 1

hostile territory, fighting if necessary and living alone on the ground for days in the worst cases.

The teams that rescued the Stealth pilot reportedly arrived in the world's best Special Operations helicopters, the MH-53 Pave Low and the MH-60 Pave Hawk, both black and flying without lights to avoid detection.

The Low carries a crew of six and can transport up to 38 passengers, each one outfitted with classified night vision equipment so sophisticated that even U.S. allies do not have access to some of it.

The MH-60 Pave Hawks are smaller, with crews of up to four and the capability of carrying as many as 14 passengers.

These craft were accompanied by one or more Black Hawk helicopters specially equipped for covert Special Op-

erations missions. Sometime after the pilot contacted the rescuers, they scooped him up.

"He was good at hiding and knew when to come out," the Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said. In Budanovci, Serb villagers rejoiced in the treeless field strewn with plane parts.

Women danced on the wing; children sat in the pilot's seat and tore up what had been the highly classified components of the \$42 million aircraft.

The Yugoslav Army allowed photographers to document its treasure. One Yugoslav soldier, cigarette in hand, posed next to the cockpit of the plane. On it was written in white cursive letters: Captain Ken "Wiz" Dwell.

The Associated Press quoted the captain as saying, in an interview from New Mexico where he is a flight instructor, that he was not piloting the plane when it was downed.



An EA-6B Prowler plane being prepared Monday for takeoff from Aviano Air Base in northern Italy, which is a hub for the NATO campaign.

Japan's Discount Fever, U.S. Style

Tokyo Gets Delirious Over Outlet Warehouses

By Kaori Shoji

TOKYO — The Japanese may not believe that shopping cures all, but most will say it comes pretty close. Even the government, convinced that a collective shopping spree was imperative to boost the nation's long-ailing economy, issued monetary coupons to every household with children under 15 years of age — 20,000 yen a child. The Japanese shopper is now being paid to shop. And look lively about it too, since the coupons were valid for only six months.

Not that they needed prompting in the first place. Consider the long lines that form within minutes all over Tokyo, whether at the counter of Fauchon's bakery or in front of Israeli street vendors displaying handcrafted necklaces; inside the hushed confines of a Prada boutique or the Muzak-blaring aisles of a 100-yen shop, everything on the shelves going for 100 yen flat, about 85 cents.

When the new Takashimaya Department Store, otherwise known as the world's largest luxury retail outlet, opened in Shinjuku, 5,500 people stampeded the doors at 10 A.M. for the privilege of first setting foot on its marble-floored premises. For two months afterward people lined up to buy everything from Gucci calfskin loafers to what was reputedly the world's greatest tofu, retailed at 650 yen a pack. Browsing was impossible, as consumers engaged in a hysterical frenzy to outbuy fellow shoppers as fast they could.

But any Tokyo shopping junkie knows that for a genuine adrenaline rush, one must head not to the glittering Takashimaya, but to the *senmonitengai*, specialty-shop districts scattered around town. These are areas with a theme, be it lacquered sushi displays or Harley-Davidsons, and a shop owner's dedication to the chosen products borders on fanaticism.

Take Bike Town, the perfect hangout for the Hell's Angels if they ever decide to show up en masse in Tokyo. In the Ueno district, where 50 years ago black-market profiteers boasted the largest operations in the city, Bike Town is now a shrine to "Easy Rider" aesthetics.

Wander by Bike Town land and one has left Japan for a Japanized, idolized vision of America. Harley's line the streets like sentries, and are available for purchase in U.S. dollars. Plastic-pierced young couples stroll by digging popcorn out of nose bags, wearing cuddly motorcycle gear.

The core customer, however, is the 40ish man staunchly devoted to the American ideal of "individualism" and freedom in the wind. They show up on customized "Fat Boys" Arnold Schwarzenegger's vehicle of choice wearing faded jeans, black police jackets and the obligatory bandanna. After a quick run up at the garage, they'll check out the Harley paraphernalia shops — all studded wrist bands, chunky silver rings, skull helmets and yes, skin-tight leather pants.

Ueno's *fling with Americanism* continues up the street at Ameyoko, where no one has bothered to bury the traces of its black-market origins. The operative word here has been, and always will be, "plenty." Fresh seafood and produce and factory-surplus everything crowd the stalls. It's nothing to see live, writhing octopuses displayed next to potato chips, fake Rolex and fur coats. Did anyone mention quality? Taste? Unheard of in Ameyoko.

Move along a few strides and the landscape changes to army



A biker couple in full gear hanging out in front of Bike Town, in the Ueno district.

goods — field jackets, bomber jackets, marine boots and burlap bags — imported from the United States and most of Europe. (The big thing last year were trench coats recycled from the Dutch Army.) Adjacent to these stalls is a run-down building, sectioned off into tiny squares selling imported cosmetics at super discount prices. The stalls are choked with luxury brand names from floor to ceiling, and as any Tokyo teen will inform you, Chanel rouge is cheaper here than anywhere else on the planet.

For a lesson in etiquette and discerning tastes, try a store called Itoya, six subway stops from Ueno. Itoya is distinguished by a giant red paper clip tacked to the storefront and is a neat, nine-floor package of 23,000 kinds of stationery supplies. Office equipment alone takes up a full three floors. The arts section has more than 150 different kinds of paint. As for erasers, this is the only place in town to get herbal-scented, floral-patterned ones at 350 yen each. There is an annex dedicated to paper (650 kinds) and another to printing supplies.

Itoya is a great respecter of imported brand names, like Mont Blanc, Parker and Stenben — the shop clerks admit that

not many customers buy them anymore, but it's part of sales policy to display them anyway. Definitely more interesting are the works of obscure craftsmen, brought back by a staff of 25 veteran buyers who scour the globe for the functional and fanciful. A recent hit was a line of minimalist business-card cases made of aluminum, designed by a 17-year-old in northern Japan.

And if Itoya's product line is astonishing, its service is awe-inspiring. The elevators are run by ultra-polite young women in immaculate uniforms and white gloves who never fail to chirp out "Thank you, have a pleasant day" every time the doors open. The information desks (one on each floor) are manned by people who have made stationery a life's passion. Ask them for the most obscure item you can think of and within a minute they will draw you an exact map of the floor and shelf that holds the product. Itoya is open nine hours a day, 364 days a year.

The biggest craze now is for stores that fall between the gritty-gritty plenitude of the Ueno specialty shops and the polite upper-crust dedication of the Itoya. Called "Outlets," these are warehouse stores modeled after those gargantuan

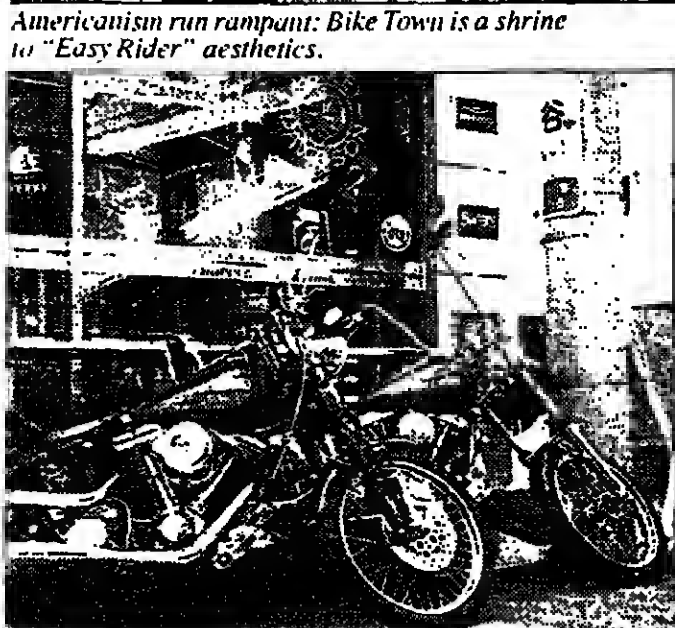
American discount shops and are found along the freeways just outside the city. Outlets are educating the Tokyo shopper in the joys of a simple, hassle-free buying system. No navigating of escalators or scaling of stairways, no hopping from store to store with armloads of shopping bags; just pile purchases into huge carts and line up at the register.

MOST Outlets have restaurants, game centers or bowling alleys to appease fidgety kids and husbands who wait around while the women pour over the merchandise.

Analysts say that Outlet wares are often of questionable quality, and the service leaves much to be desired. But shoppers aren't there for the products themselves as much as for the ritual of buying. In this case, they're buying into an American phenomenon — piling the family into a car, parking in an oceanic lot, stuffing a shopping cart with whatever strikes the fancy, pulling out a credit card.

For now, it all looks exotic.

Kaori Shoji is a writer based in Tokyo.



Trouble in Paradise, Florida

By Tracie Rozhon
New York Times Service

PALM BEACH, Florida — As the Florida sun beats relentlessly on the perfect palms and spotless thoroughfares, the residents of this Mediterranean-style mecca are losing their cool over big houses.

Just this month, a Palm Beach neighbor of the oil billionaire David Koch and his wife, Julia, who are gutting a landmark mansion here (while still renovating the former Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis apartment in New York) filed suit to block them from enclosing their upstairs porch. The neighbor charged that the second-story alteration would block his ocean view.

To many Palm Beach inhabitants, the lawsuit — which eventually was dismissed — is symbolic of the bad feelings whipping through the banyan trees, as hundreds of newcomers from the north, younger than ever before, put down roots in the sand.

"Yes, this is the town that used to be known as a place rich people came to die," said David Ober, chairman of Spheeris Southeast, who, with his wife, Polly, is rearing two teenagers here. "But if it was true, it's certainly not true anymore."

Today, they're coming here to build.

In a recent report commissioned by the town, architectural consultants hired to assess the Big House Problem found that zoning issues in Palm Beach have become "increasingly fractious and divisive, causing citizens to turn against one another." "The town is faced with a paradoxical demand from citizens," they wrote. "Don't let them build any more big monster houses, and don't get in my way when I want to add rooms to my own house."

Rafters are rising, and concrete mixers are grinding. Piles

of sand and cast-iron pipes dot yards awaiting new turf; pickup trucks and painters' vans are parked helter-skelter.

"This island is sinking from the weight of the concrete," said Judith Green, author of "Sometimes Paradise," a 1987 novel based in Palm Beach, who has been coming here since she was 19. "There are people here playing Monopoly — building the most conspicuous house just because they can." But she also criticized longtime residents who allowed their mansions to go to seed and to be replaced by new houses. Some people, she said, "run around screaming, 'What's happened to our island?'" She added, "Well, they couldn't keep the place up, could they?"

The biggest houses, rising on "estate size" lots — at least one and a half acres (more than half a hectare) — are almost indistinguishable from the vintage villas, and that is the point. They are being built by this decade's heirs and high-tech millionaires, who want that Palm Beach look: the carved stone curlicues, the Gothic windows, the atriums and the archways — but without the tiny bedrooms, and with walk-in closets and central air-conditioning. One house being constructed has windshield wipers on its ocean-front windows, to wash off the salt spray every day.

Worried about the town's architectural future, officials and the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, a private group, have met with Urban Design Associates of Pittsburgh, who helped plan Celebration, the new Disney town in central Florida. The consultants have proposed a pattern book — similar to ones of a century ago, but with examples of what not to build: blocky mansions with oversize windows and entrances. Compliance with a pattern book would be voluntary, but bonuses — like the chance to build a wider house — could be granted to those who follow the recommendations. The town council has ordered a detailed study, due in two months.

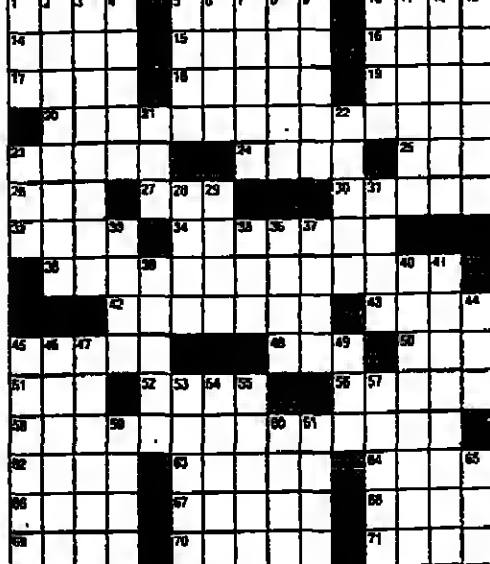
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Armed forces females
- 5 Like a whip?
- 10 Play parts
- 14 Fiery gem
- 15 Synagogue scroll
- 16 Composable pop
- 17 Sabe
- 18 Actress Verdugo
- 19 Is-a-ef statesman
- 20 Guitos for couch potatoes
- 23 Acc. e. g.
- 24 "You Are My Destiny" singer, 1958
- 25 Classic car
- 26 The "A" in NATO: Abbr.
- 27 Poem of praise
- 30 Feline hybrid
- 32 Constitutional Amendment that abolished slavery
- 34 Just barely places
- 38 1949 Bing Crosby hit
- 42 Puget Sound city
- 43 Quotation notation
- 45 "Grand" piece of furniture

DOWN

- 2 The "A" in NATO: Abbr.
- 3 Mag. staffers
- 6 Intermus Rudolf
- 8 Hardly award-winning writing
- 9 Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, e.g.
- 11 Six Million Dollar Man, e.g.
- 12 Town in County Kerry
- 13 Electric eye, e.g.
- 21 Oklahoma Indian
- 22 Shire who had a "Rocky" career
- 23 Bellum's opposite
- 24 Mole in the morning
- 25 Dutch cheese
- 26 Cuzco-centered empire
- 31 Smooths things over
- 32 Chest
- 35 DeMille-type film
- 37 Do in, as a dragon
- 38 Warm welcome
- 40 Casey Jones, e.g.
- 41 Tiny bubbles
- 44 Old-time humorist Bill
- 45 Across features
- 46 "Yippee!"
- 47 Take for granted
- 48 Set's problem
- 53 Zhou —
- 54 Back of a boat



Puzzle by Randy Skovron
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Style is not a size... it's an Attitude! **MARINA RINALDI**
Sizes 14-28

NYSE

Monday's 3 P.M.
The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.

The Associated Press

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	100 High	Low	Latest	Chge	12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	100 High	Low	Latest	Chge	12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	100 High	Low	Latest	Chge
120	115	IBM	4.0	15.0	120	115	118	-3	120	115	IBM	4.0	15.0	120	115	118	-3	120	115	IBM	4.0	15.0	120	115	118	-3
115	110	Microsoft	3.0	18.0	115	110	112	-2	115	110	Microsoft	3.0	18.0	115	110	112	-2	115	110	Microsoft	3.0	18.0	115	110	112	-2
110	105	Apple	2.0	20.0	110	105	107	-2	110	105	Apple	2.0	20.0	110	105	107	-2	110	105	Apple	2.0	20.0	110	105	107	-2
105	100	Oracle	1.0	22.0	105	100	102	-2	105	100	Oracle	1.0	22.0	105	100	102	-2	105	100	Oracle	1.0	22.0	105	100	102	-2
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90	85	Yahoo	0.1	30.0	90	85	87	-2	90	85	Yahoo	0.1	30.0	90	85	87	-2	90	85	Yahoo	0.1	30.0	90	85	87	-2
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-75	-80	Twitter	0.0	195.0	-75	-80	-78	-2	-75	-80	Twitter	0.0	195.0	-75	-80	-78	-2	-75	-80	Twitter	0.0	195.0	-75	-80	-78	-2
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-120	-125	Facebook	0.0	240.0	-120	-125	-123	-2	-120	-125	Facebook	0.0	240.0	-120	-125	-123	-2	-120	-125	Facebook	0.0	240.0	-120	-125	-123	-2
-125	-130	Twitter	0.0	245.0	-125	-130	-128	-2	-125	-130	Twitter	0.0	245.0	-125	-130	-128	-2	-125	-130	Twitter	0.0	245.0	-125	-130	-128	-2
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-165	-170	Google	0.0	285.0	-165	-170	-168	-2	-165	-170	Google	0.0	285.0	-165	-170	-168	-2	-165	-170	Google	0.0	285.0	-165	-170	-168	-2
-170	-175	Facebook	0.0	290.0	-170	-175	-173	-2	-170	-175	Facebook	0.0	290.													

PARIS TEL. 33 1 42 95 03 05 - LUXEMBOURG TEL. 352/476 831 1 - LONDON TEL. 44 171/499 91 46 - MONACO TEL. 377/93 15 73 34
 MONTEVIDEO TEL. 598 2/96 35 14 - MIAMI TEL. 1 305/375 78 00 - HONG KONG TEL. 852/28 26 79 88 - SINGAPORE TEL. 65/333 63 31

EUROPE

Central Bank Steps Into BNP Bid

Trichet Urges 3 French Institutions to 'Engage in Dialogue'

PARIS — The governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet, on Monday cleared Banque Paribas SA's bid to acquire BNP Paribas SA, but urged the three banks to "engage in dialogue" to resolve their differences.

Mr. Trichet said he hoped the three banks would "engage in dialogue" with a view to finding a solution "fully respecting the moral and financial situation of each bank and preserving the higher interests of the banking sector."

Mr. Trichet's comments came shortly after BNP's hostile bid for control of Societe Generale and Paribas was cleared by the Comité des Etablissements de Credit, a banking regulator over which Mr. Trichet presides.

The regulator authorized BNP to make a bid for 50.01 percent or more of Paribas and Societe Generale. But

if BNP gets only a minority of the two banks, it would have to seek a new authorization to keep the shareholdings, the committee indicated.

Societe Generale and Paribas have said BNP's bid is illegal, in part because BNP has not said what it would do if it only got a minority.

The Societe Generale president, Andre Levy-Lang, said Friday that "anything which would lead to a three-way merger we rule out absolutely."

BNP's unexpected share-swap offer, made March 9, would create the only bank in the world with more than \$1 trillion in assets. It came on the eve of the closing of an agreed \$19 billion share-swap offer by Societe Generale to take over Paribas.

Top management of the two banks have vowed to fight BNP's bid.

Societe Generale and Paribas appealed the decision Friday of another regulator that cleared BNP's bid, ar-

guing that BNP was not providing enough information to shareholders.

One of the banks' arguments is that BNP has not said it would keep a minority stake if it got it, so shareholders do not really know what kind of bank they are exchanging their shares for.

BNP still has other regulatory hurdles to jump before it can officially open its bid. The Commission des Operations de Bourses, France's stock-market regulator, must decide whether investors are being given enough information.

On March 16, the Conseil des Marchés Financiers, which rules whether the value of the bid is compatible with the market, cleared BNP's offer. Societe Generale and Paribas appealed that decision Friday to the Paris Court of Appeals.

The court is to set a date this week for the banks to present their arguments. (AFP, Bloomberg)



Jean-Claude Trichet says banks should iron out differences.

Olivetti Adds To Its Offer For Telecom

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

MILAN — Olivetti SpA raised its bid Monday for bigger rival Telecom Italia SpA by 15 percent to 60.4 billion euros (\$65.23 billion) and said it would be its final offer for the telecommunications company.

"In any negotiation, you don't start by giving your definitive offer straight away," said Roberto Colaninno, managing director of Olivetti. "But I can tell you that this is now our definitive offer."

Olivetti's new 11.5 euro-per-share bid, from 10 euros per share in cash, stock and bonds, comes days before Telecom Italia shareholders are set to vote on defensive measures that would obstruct the takeover. A higher bid would make an approval of those measures less certain.

"I think it will give some people who have been hesitating pause to reconsider," said Robert Grindle, an analyst at HSBC Securities in London. "This is starting to approach the range which could convince folks."

Olivetti said its new bid was still conditional on no substantial change in Telecom Italia's pre-bid structure — underlining the fact that the new offer hinges on Telecom's shareholders throwing out a \$24.7 billion buyout of cellphone unit TIM, which Telecom Italia announced over the weekend.

Telecom Italia's management, which is buying out the company's cellular unit and converting nonvoting saving shares as part of its defense, had rejected Olivetti's previous bid, at \$58 billion, as too low.

Olivetti's new offer will pay 6.92 euros in cash per Telecom Italia share, 2.90 euros' worth of bonds per share, and three shares in its Teleson unit for every five Telecom Italia shares. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
5800	6000	4000
5400	5600	3600
5000	5200	3200
4600	4800	2800
4200	4400	2400
3800	4000	2000
3400	3600	1600
3000	3200	1200
2600	2800	800
2200	2400	400
1800	2000	0
1400	1600	0
1000	1200	0
600	800	0
200	400	0
0	0	0

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

- LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA has won an extra week, until April 6, to launch a full takeover bid for Gucci Group NV.
- Moody's Investors Service Ltd. cut its credit outlook on Diageo PLC, the world's largest liquor maker, to "negative" from "stable" as a result of the company's £1.13 billion (\$1.83 billion) share buyback last week, in which it repurchased 4.5 percent of its share capital.
- The European Commission cleared Ford Motor Co.'s acquisition of Volvo AB's car unit. The commission said the combination would have only "a limited effect in terms of industry concentration."
- Renault SA shares closed about 3 percent higher at 35.05 euros (\$37.91) in late trading after the carmaker forecast that its 37 percent stake in debt-laden Nissan Motor Co. would "strongly" improve its earnings beginning in 2001.
- Marks & Spencer PLC, Britain's largest clothing retailer, said it would cut 200 jobs at its head office in a second round of job cuts. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Paris Cuts Forecast of '99 Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

PARIS — The government cut its 1999 economic growth forecast Monday and said business confidence fell for the second month in a row in March, pressuring the European Central Bank to cut interest rates as soon as next week.

Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn predicted that France's economy would grow between 2.2 percent and 2.5 percent this year, down from the 2.7 percent forecast in October.

Separately, the statistics institute INSEE said in its monthly report that industrial activity had "clearly slowed in recent months," adding that order books were continuing to shrink. It said manufacturers' confidence was at a two-and-a-half-year low.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn said that the fallout from weak economies in Russia, Latin America and Asia would limit growth in France this year. But he added that France would still have stronger growth than its main partners in the euro zone, "clearly stronger than in Germany and Italy, which will be nearer 1.5 percent."

Finance Ministry officials said they did not think the divergence between France and Germany, Europe's two biggest economies, was incompatible with the smooth running of monetary union.

But Oskar Lafontaine, chief economist at the European Central Bank,

said Sunday that economic growth in the 11-nation euro region was "weakening significantly" with "no sign of inflationary dangers."

The comments were interpreted by investors to mean that the central bank may be prepared to cut rates.

Business confidence has slumped in Germany in recent months as companies like Volkswagen AG, Europe's biggest carmaker, warned that weak Asian and Latin American economies would hit sales.

France's business confidence index, which measures expectation for national industrial output, declined to minus 22 in March from minus 16 in February. March's reading was the lowest since October 1996. (Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

Glaxo Redirects Search for Partner

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

LONDON — Glaxo Wellcome PLC was seeking a merger partner Monday after talks with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. reportedly broke down.

Sources familiar with the situation said Glaxo and Bristol-Myers had held discussions on creating a pharmaceutical behemoth accounting for more than 8 percent of the \$250 billion global prescription drug market. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Monday, March 29

Prices in local currencies. Percentages for ECU countries.

Telecom

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX index: 524.54

Previous: 522.95

Frankfurt DAX index: 6254.99

Previous: 6254.99

Paris CAC 40 index: 3524.54

Previous: 3524.54

London FTSE 100 index: 5245.99

Previous: 5245.99

Tokyo Nikkei 225 index: 14084.84

Previous: 14084.84

Hong Kong Hang Seng index: 10848.48

Previous: 10848.48

Singapore SENSEX index: 3447.77

Previous: 3447.77

Buenos Aires Merval index: 4518.18

Previous: 4518.18

Johannesburg All Share index: 4608.08

Previous: 4608.08

Wellington NZSE index: 2117.17

Previous: 2117.17

Zurich SPI index: 4513.13

Previous: 4513.13

Vienna ATX index: 1181.81

Previous: 1181.81

Brussels BEL-20 index: 2542.42

Previous: 2542.42

Copenhagen Stock index: 997.97

Previous: 997.97

Oslo OBX index: 547.47

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Stockholm OMX index: 222.22

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ASIA/PACIFIC

On-Line Traders Taking Alternate Routes May Not See Curves Ahead

By Gretchen Morgenson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK—Millions of investors have rushed into the brave new world of electronic stock trading. Armed with fast computers and sophisticated software, they see themselves not only at the market's epicenter but also on the same plain as professional traders. For extra enticement, there are low commissions, sometimes less than \$10 a trade.

What many investors may not realize is that their trades — particularly in the sizzling Internet stocks with which on-line traders are infatuated — are not finding their way to the market through traditional channels.

Instead, much of that trading is being piped through new types of electronic networks — systems that, in theory, are ideal marketplaces, where buyers and sellers can trade stocks without paying a fee to the professional traders who have long served as middlemen in the Nasdaq market.

The new trading systems, called electronic communications networks, or ECNs, are pitched as a way for investors to gain instant access to the markets and to compete head to head with professional traders.

Yet for all their promise, these networks have distinct disadvantages. They and the investors who use them — including the growing numbers of rapid-fire day traders — are contributing to the wild ricocheting of prices in Internet stocks.

Moreover, although commissions for trading on line are indeed rock bottom, there are hidden costs in using the networks. Prices on these networks are inferior on eight out of 10 stocks they trade, according to the National Association of Securities Dealers. In large part, that is because investors are trading only with other investors who are using the same network rather than "meeting" all other investors in the broader Nasdaq marketplace.

Frustrations over poor prices, or trades that were not executed at all, have led some experienced investors to wonder whether something is amiss between the time or-

ders are placed and the time they show up on an ECN.

"The upside is that investors are getting that meeting possibility," said Richard Ketchum, president of the securities dealers' association. "The downside is that they are not getting any execution guarantee."

The networks now account for about 20 percent of trading in Nasdaq stocks — more than the volume on the American Stock Exchange and all the U.S. regional stock exchanges combined. But even investors who are not using the networks have reason to be concerned, as volatility jumps and total trading costs increase.

"We're in a period of disequilibrium right now," said Bruce Weber, assistant professor of information systems at New York University's Stern School of Business.

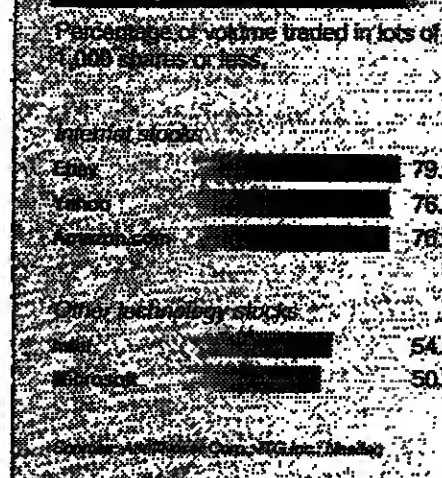
Anybody that's trading a Nasdaq stock these days has to work harder to find the best price and ideal counterparties than they did maybe three or four years ago.

With the Nasdaq composite index up 10 percent so far this year, the problems have been largely papered over by investor profits. Not until a full-fledged market dive will investors find out whether the fragmented marketplace created by the rise of these networks will make it harder to sell — or harder to sell at a good price. Such difficulties could make jittery investors panic, turning a trickle of selling into a flood and pulling down more established stocks, too.

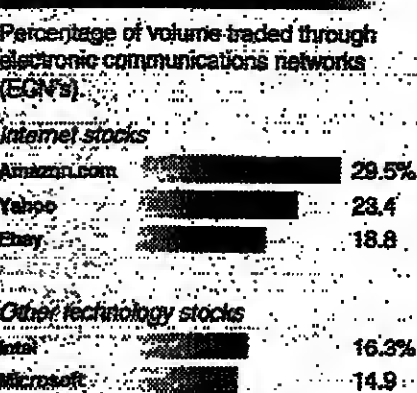
Regulators opened the door wide to the new networks after they found in the mid-1990s that traders in Nasdaq stocks were profiting from artificially wide spreads — the difference between the price at which traders buy shares from sellers and the price at which they will resell them to buyers.

In the most important change, regulators forced Nasdaq traders to display customers' orders that fell at prices within the spread. They also encouraged the creation of networks that would allow investors to meet. Rather than taking a markup on trades, the networks profit by charging a

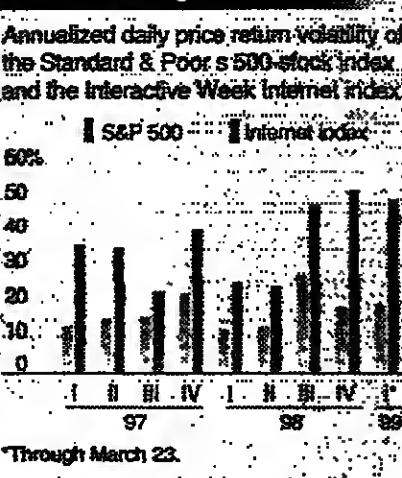
Internet Stocks Trade Mostly in Small Lots...



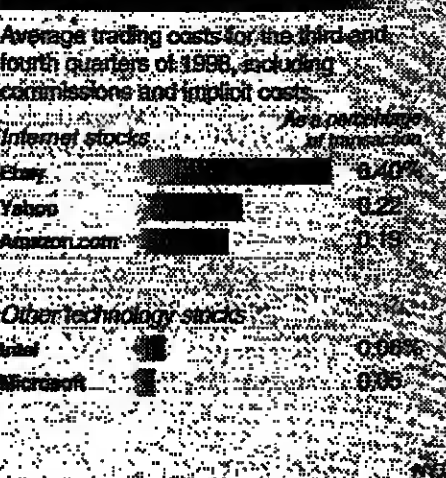
...Often on Electronic Trading Networks...



...Contributing to Wild Price Swings...



...And High Trading Costs for Investors



small fee for each transaction.

Most of the electronic networks operate today for institutional investors. The oldest is Instinet, a unit of Reuters Group PLC. But two rapidly growing services cater to individual investors: Island, a two-year-old network owned by Datek Holdings, a discount brokerage firm based in Iselin, New Jersey, and Archipelago, a Chicago-based company whose owners include Goldman, Sachs & Co. and E*Trade Group Inc. The 200,000 customers of Datek Online have trades funneled to Island.

"ECNs are one of the most dramatic forces reshaping the equity markets," said David Chelms, director of research at ITG Inc., a research and trading company that runs a trade-matching service for institutional investors called ITG Post.

"I think ECNs have a very valuable role in improving the efficiency of the market. The downside is, many of the benefits of ECNs have been co-opted by the professional day trader. Some of the ways they are being used right now are not in the market's best interest."

ECNs play a significant role in the increasing volatility in many Nasdaq stocks. A growing number of day traders, who buy and sell furiously all day long hoping to capture tiny per-share profits

on large trades, execute their orders on the networks. Their lemming-like behavior in stocks that are already moving has made 15-point single-day swings common.

Even the occasional trader who uses an ECN can add to volatility.

If a customer offers to buy shares at a price well above the market — something that happens increasingly, with so many on-line traders eager to buy hot stocks at any price — the offer is flashed on other investors' screens, helping push the market higher. At a brokerage firm, that order would probably be executed at the lower price.

The day traders and the "price-is-no-object" investors are creating wild price swings in Internet stocks, which trade widely on the electronic networks.

According to ITG, daily swings in an index of Internet stocks have been running at more than twice the level of such swings in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index. Such volatility increases investors' anxieties and raises their costs by making it more difficult to get in and out of positions.

"People take pride in the fact that spreads in stocks have narrowed, but intraday price changes are bigger than they've ever been," said Andrew Brooks, vice president in charge of equity trading at T. Rowe Price in Baltimore. "I don't think we've ever had

an environment like that."

The biggest problem posed by the electronic networks is the fragmentation of the market for Nasdaq stocks. The Nasdaq market has always been fragmented because it has no central trading floor, but the networks split up the market even more. When fewer trades are posted in one place, it is less likely that orders to buy and sell at the same price will find each other.

Robert Colby, deputy director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's division of market regulation, said that although the changes ordered after the Nasdaq investigation had helped investors, "it's still a dispersed market."

"If the volume is going on in one place and you are at another, you won't get executed," he said.

An investor can also wind up with an inferior price. Say a stock is quoted on ECN "A" at \$10.25 (the "bid" price) and at \$10.375 (the "offer" price), while ECN "B" has prices of \$10.25 bid, \$10.3125 offered. An investor interested in buying the shares at the prevailing price would pay more to trade on "A."

Or say an investor has placed a limit order — an order to buy stock at a set price — on an electronic network. If there is no seller willing to take the other side of the trade at that price, the order remains unfilled.

After it becomes evident that the trade cannot be

matched at the network, the investor, if he or she understands how Nasdaq trading works, can cancel the order and route it to another system or to a big market-maker such as Merrill Lynch & Co. or Knight Securities Inc.

Even then, this time lapse — maybe just a few seconds — can be costly. The price the investor wanted to pay may be vastly different from the new one. If the market price is much higher, the order is not executed. If the market price has fallen significantly, the order is executed — but the

investor pays more for the stock.

When it comes to costs, most investors focus only on their brokerage commissions. But explicit costs such as commissions make up only 10 percent of an investor's total costs, according to Salomon Smith Barney. Implicit costs, such as what an investor pays for a volatile stock or when trades are badly executed, make up the rest.

Eugene Noser of Abel/Noser Corp. in New York, who tracks trading costs, says that implicit factors — including those driven by the rise of electronic

networks — are very high on popular Internet stocks.

"If you take the trading costs of a Yahoo! or eBay or Excite, they are astronomical," he said. "It is very difficult and expensive to try to execute orders in these stocks."

According to Abel/Noser, while the average cost of trading New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and Nasdaq stocks is about 0.16 percent of the transaction amount, the average cost to trade eBay Inc. in the last six months of 1998 was roughly 0.4 percent; for Yahoo! Inc., it was 0.22 percent.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Metz Forward Quits

SOCCER Vladan Lukic, a Serbian forward, said Monday he was quitting the French First Division club Metz for three months to protest NATO air strikes on his country.

Lukic said he was returning to Belgrade to be with his family. "Innocent people are being bombed," Lukic told French television. (AP)

• UEFA said Monday it would not support Yugoslav players who were shunning club competition in response to NATO air strikes.

While sympathizing with the players' anxieties, European soccer's governing body said its official stance was, "Politics should not be mixed with football." UEFA also said that Yugoslavia would remain eligible to participate in Euro 2000. "We are not thinking of playing without any of the countries," said Guido Tognoni, head of the competition. (Reuters)

• Herbert Prohaska said Monday he was resigning as the Austrian coach after more than six years in the post. His team lost, 9-0, to Spain in a Euro 2000 Group 6 qualifier on Saturday. (AP)

Duval Complete Double

GOLF David Duval won the Tournament Players Championship to take the No. 1 ranking in men's golf and complete an unprecedented family double.

Duval won the tournament Sunday 90 minutes after his father, Bob, won the Senior Tour Emerald Coast Classic, making the Duvals the first father-son combination to win PGA Tour events on the same weekend.

David Duval shot a 1-over-par 73 to finish 3-under for the tournament (285). Scott Gump finished second, two strokes back, and Nick Price was a shot behind him in third. (NYT)

• Dottie Pepper shot a 6-under-par 66 to win the Dinah Shore Classic, the first women's major of the year, in Rancho Mirage, California, with a tournament-record 19-under 269 total. Pepper finished six shots better on Sunday than Meg Mallon. (AP)

Avalanche Reach Peak

ICE HOCKEY The Colorado Avalanche clinched the National Hockey League's Northwest Division title with a 7-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Sunday.

The victory moved Patrick Roy, the Colorado goaltender, past Jacques Plante for the NHL career lead in total victories with his 506th, counting regular season and playoffs.

In another game, the Dallas Stars clinched the Western Conference championship with a 3-0 victory at Nashville. (AP)

Australia All Out for 146

CRICKET Australia stuttered in its second innings on the fourth day of the third test against the West Indies in Barbados. At test, Australia was all out for 146 in its second innings, setting West Indies a victory target of 308. (AP)



Charles Johnson, the Baltimore Orioles catcher, tagging out Jose Estrada of Cuba at home plate.

Orioles Beat Cuban Team — This Time

Thomas Boswell
Washington Post Service

HAVANA — The old Washington Senators pitcher Connie Marrero took the mound at Estadio Latinoamericano to face leadoff man Brady Anderson of the Baltimore Orioles. First, Marrero threw a curveball that broke over the head of the plate for a strike. Then he tried two fastballs, just inches off the outside corner — the same way he always tried to get Mickey Mantle and Ted Williams to chase bad pitches.

Finally, on the fourth pitch Sunday, Anderson tried to bunt. But Marrero's curve was too sharp, and Anderson fouled it back. Then, since it was obvious that Marrero had no intention of leaving the mound, Cuban authorities gently led the little snow-haired gentleman away. After all, Marrero is 87.

There has never been a ceremonial first pitch like Marrero's Sunday. But then there has never been a game like this historic 3-2 Orioles victory in 11 tense innings against a short-handed, makeshift Cuban team.

Marrero began the afternoon with a message of defiance to the Americans. He wasn't kidding. He was pitching. The

implication was simple: This game was dedicated to the vindication of 40 years of Cuban stars who have not been able to prove themselves against the other greats of baseball who compete as pros.

More than three hours later, the Orioles' \$82 million payroll, and by extension all of big league baseball, escaped with their dignity intact. But just barely. In the bottom of the 10th, Cuba sent its No. 3 and No. 4 hitters — Yobal Duenas and the legendary Omar Linares (career average .371 with 377 homers) — to the plate against journeyman Mike Fetters with the winning run on second base.

Thanks to a strikeout and a pop-up, President Fidel Castro, who was seated between Bud Selig, the Major League Baseball commissioner, and Peter Angelos, the Orioles owner, did not get the last laugh. He'd broken out a grin when a two-out single in the eighth by Linares off reliever Mike Tunlin tied the game at 2. The Orioles' 2-0 lead, built by Charles Johnson's home run, had been blown. The sellout invitation-only crowd, quiet for most of the game, had reason to holler.

As for the Cuban players, they went as far as one day's work possibly could to justify their own careers and the countless others before them. Their composed

come-from-behind performance was a credit to Wilfredo Hiti Sanchez, Rodolfo Puente, Vincente Anglada, Omar Ajete, Victor (El Loco) Mesa and many others whose careers came and went in the relative obscurity of international amateur tournaments and the Olympics.

The Orioles won the battle. But the Cubans may have won the war by proving that they could compete against the Orioles' front-line players.

If these two teams played a full season, which would be better? Probably the Orioles. They have more powerful hitters in the heart of their order. But, otherwise, from pitching to fielding to base running, they seemed equal.

When the Cubans visit Baltimore on May 3 to play the Orioles again, they will bring a half-dozen more standouts who are playing in the Cuban championship between Industriales and Santiago. After the Cubans add Antonio Pacheco, Herman Mesa and Orestes Kindalen, the Orioles better not wait until the 11th inning for Will Clark to double and Harold Baines to single him home.

This game created only one problem. Which Cuban player will not want to defect? If this is the caliber of major league baseball, where do we sign up?

Politics Aside, It Was All About Baseball

By Mark Fineman
Los Angeles Times Service

HAVANA — The churches and streets here were filled soon after dawn Sunday with worshippers marking the start of the Christian Holy Week — once a forbidden scene in Communist-run Havana.

But on Palm Sunday afternoon, all eyes were focused on baseball. About 50,000 party loyalists and friends, led by President Fidel Castro himself, packed the downtown Estadio Latinoamericano for an exhibition game pitting a Cuban national team against the Baltimore Orioles. The crowd cheered for Cuba but applauded the Orioles as well, as millions more sat riveted to TV sets in two nations separated by 90 miles (150 kilometers) of water and 40 years of official enmity.

Even Castro, clad in trademark military fatigues, stood for his seat behind home plate for "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And when night fell, the town rocked. Jimmy Buffet, Bonnie Raitt and Gladys Knight took the stage in a concert by local and American musical stars that ended an extraordinary day in Cuba. Their opening number in the Karl Marx Theater: a stylized Cuban rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

All this in a single day — a remarkable convergence of American cultural icons with their Cuban counterparts at a time when relations between the governments in Havana and Washington are approaching one of their lowest points since the end of the Cold War.

The game marked the first time a U.S. major league team had played in Cuba

since the Los Angeles Dodgers took the field here 40 years ago last week.

In the weeks leading up to Sunday's extraordinary event, both governments sought to play down the day's importance. But in baseball-crazed Cuba, which is in the midst of its own national championship series, the ballgame was the day's featured event — a vivid display of a shared national bond suddenly emerging from a deep freeze.

The veteran stadium groundskeeper Vicente Romero, 71, who rattled off a half-dozen American major and minor league teams he watched here before the revolution, said the goodwill game was most important for young Cubans.

"They know good baseball when they see it, and they're seeing it today," Romero said.

Figure Skating Slides Over Some Thin Ice

Eligibility Rules Have Deepened Confusion

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

HELSINKI — Collusion among the judges. Confusion among the public. Domination by the Russians.

Those were the themes last week at the world figure skating championships, and though it would be a pleasure to watch Alexei Yagudin jump, Laila

VANTAGE POINT

Ruh spin and Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat emote again next year, this sport, which too often resembles a spectacle, had best use the next 12 months wisely.

Figure skating is on thin ice. More than five years after the soap-opera saga involving Tonya Harding (the villain) and Nancy Kerrigan (the victim) produced record U.S. prime-time ratings at the 1994 Winter Olympics and a burst of curiosity worldwide, figure skating's popularity and coherence are suffering.

Television audiences for traditional events dropped significantly in the United States this season, and interest also has waned in major European markets. Russia, whose skaters are the best in the world, has more pressing concerns. The reigning men's Olympic champion, Ilia Kulik, says he can walk the streets in Moscow and hardly be recognized.

Kulik does not walk those streets often anymore. Like scores of Russian skaters and coaches, he lives and trains in the United States, and though Kulik maintained his Olympic eligibility this season, he chose to compete in open events and exhibitions instead of both-ering with the world championships.

So did former world champion Todd Eldredge and Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev, the reigning Olympic pairs champions, who also were Olympic eligible and, theoretically at least, had the right to be in Helsinki.

It used to be simple to understand which skaters were on the Olympic track. Once Dorothy Hamill, the 1976 Olympic women's champion, or Robin Cousins, the 1980 men's champion, turned pro, they were out of the mix. But since 1994, when professionals such as Brian Boitano were permitted to qualify for and compete in the Lillehammer Games, the confusion has deepened.

Instead of using the professionals' return in 1994 as a lever to pry open the sport completely, the International Skating Union started erecting barriers to maintain its own relevance. The result is that figure skating is the only major Olympic sport, with the exception of baseball, that does not allow its stars equal access to its world championships or the Olympics. Imagine track and field if Marion Jones was eligible and Michael Johnson was not.

It is not as if figure skating is making a moral stand about the value of amateurism versus professionalism. All top skaters are professionals now. The increasingly arbitrary distinctions between them are simply the product of a power struggle within the sport, and the only genuine difference left between Olympic-eligible skaters and Olympic-ineligible skaters is that the ineligible, including Philippe Candeloro or Kristi Yamaguchi or Boitano, skate in professional events that are not sanctioned by the ISU.

"When a person goes to work for another party, he cannot come back to your party again," said Otavio Cinquanta, the ISU president. "When a skater decides to quit the ISU system and ISU judges, he doesn't go to rowing or basketball. He decides to move to another area competitive with the ISU."

With some success, the ISU fought to keep stars such as Kwan happy and eligible last season by sanctioning a number of events open to all skaters, but Kwan ended up skipping the ISU's Grand Prix series altogether, and the nervous federation will now reduce the number of open events it sanctions and oblige its top skaters to compete in the Grand Prix if they want access to the opens.

"That only means Michelle will be coming to us sooner," said a non-ISU event promoter who asked not to be identified.

It also means that skating fans will see less of what they desire: the leading and most charismatic skaters competing against each other in legitimate events. Some skaters — like the born showman Candeloro — are perfectly content to step off the more technically demanding Olympic track. But others, like Oksana Baiul, the 1994 Olympic champion, would like the option of returning. And what of Tara Lipinski, the American who turned "pro" at 15 after winning Olympic gold last year and will have an Olympics in her own country in 2002?

"With the present rules, it is impossible for Tara Lipinski to come back," Cinquanta said. "Ask her why she left."

To Cinquanta's credit, the ISU has swept away a few cobwebs in recent years. It has created a more comprehensible structure with its Grand Prix and it has addressed the judging problem in skating aggressively by pushing for the use of video replay and by shuffling the judging panels in the notoriously sclerotic discipline of ice dancing.

But instead of reaping the rewards in Helsinki for those efforts, the sport ended up with another credibility crisis despite a delightfully high standard of performance from skaters such as the men's champion, Yagudin, and the women's champion, Maria Butyrskaya. While Russia became the first nation to sweep all four disciplines, its victories in pairs and ice dancing were questionable, as was Kwan's silver medal in the women's event after a fall in the short program and a flawed, typically flat free skate.

During the pairs final, a Canadian television crew filmed Alfred Korytek of Ukraine and Sviatoslav Babenko of Russia communicating and using what appeared to be foot signals. Any communication between judges during a competition is prohibited, and both were suspended by the ISU on Sunday, although it bears remembering that even if Korytek and Babenko had favored Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo of China instead of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze of Russia, the Chinese still would have lost the gold by a 5-4 margin.

The French federation's protest over the judging in the ice dancing was more predictable — ice dancing is as subjective as sport gets — but if the French can prove their allegation that Russian referee Alexander Gorshkov encouraged Chinese judge Ren Hongbo to change his marks in favor of the Russians, more disciplinary action will follow.

Personals

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GENEVA PRETTY WOMAN - BASEL

SPORTS

Purdue Tops Duke For Women's Title

Boilermakers Get First NCAA Crown

By Bill Pennington
New York Times Service

SAN JOSE, California — As Purdue's Ukari Figgs and Stephanie White-McCarthy hugged with tears in their eyes at one end of the court, a similar embrace was taking place several feet away in front of the Duke bench.

There, a tearful Nicole Erickson and Michele VanGorp — teammates of Figgs and White-McCarthy before transferring from Purdue to Duke two years ago — met. Arm in arm, the two Duke seniors then turned and left the San Jose arena court.

Figgs and White-McCarthy, who was on crutches because of an ankle sprain, remained to celebrate Purdue's first National Collegiate Athletic Association women's basketball championship, a product of a 62-45 victory over Duke in the title game Sunday night.

In a spirited game that reflected both the championship stakes and the unique personal history between the teams, top-ranked Purdue overcame White-McCarthy's late injury with a second-half surge.

The total points in the game (107) was the lowest for a women's NCAA final.

The injury to White-McCarthy, which occurred after she missed a turnaround jumper near the foul line with four minutes left in the game, actually appeared to spark Purdue, which scored the next 13 points to put the game away.

White-McCarthy — an all-American — was helped from the court before a hushed Purdue bench.

On the Purdue bench, there

were a few seconds when things appeared to be in disarray. White-McCarthy's face was twisted with pain, and her teammates were in a circle trying to console her. But Purdue's players said they soon found the resolve to close out the game and win.

Although Duke had led by five points at halftime, Figgs, who would score all of her game-high 18 points in the second half, rallied Purdue to a 47-39 lead just before White-McCarthy slumped to the court.

But as White-McCarthy lay on the court, Duke's Hilary Howard sank a 3-point shot at the other end. Duke's players, who appeared out of sync for most of the second half, could sense this might be their last opportunity to keep Purdue from its 32nd consecutive victory.

Duke wouldn't score again until the game was one minute from ending, and by then Purdue had a 60-45 lead. In that stretch, Purdue made 12 consecutive free throws and 15 of 17 it attempted.

"I'm disappointed because we've come such a long way," said Gail Goostenkors, the Duke coach.

Purdue coach Carolyn Peck, who is resigning to become coach and general manager of the Orlando franchise in the Women's National Basketball Association, said the victory Sunday would have a big impact on her school's program.

"It's our first national championship and the first national championship for a women's Big Ten program," Peck said. "Those are nice accomplishments. Back home on campus, we have a pic-



Katie Douglas of Purdue, left, fighting for the ball with Duke's Michele VanGorp.

ture frame we've been reserving for Purdue's first national championship team. And these players are going in that picture frame."

White-McCarthy said: "This is what we stayed for, we stayed for the opportunity. The group we have on this team makes it special."

From the opening tip, each team played with a fervor that seemed the by-product of the closeness of the most pivotal players on the court — White-McCarthy, Figgs, Erickson and VanGorp.

Neither Duke nor Purdue had ever played in the national championship game of women's college basketball.

But all this led to some nervous play and sloppy basketball. Halfway through the first half, Duke led, 9-8.

The Duke guards were harassed and appeared disorganized as they tried to run their offense.

Purdue had larger guards, and the 6-foot 1-inch forward Katie Douglas, an unsung star of Purdue's defense, also seemed to be causing size problems for Duke's hottest player in the tournament, Erickson, who is 5-6.

But whatever problems Erickson was having, they were not as noticeable as the troubles Figgs was having in the first half.

Figgs, who led Purdue with 24 points in its semifinal victory over Louisiana Tech, was 0 for 7.

The game officials contributed to the helter-skelter nature of the first half when they called 15 fouls on the teams.

half, Figgs sparked Purdue's rally at the midpoint of the second half, scoring 8 points during a 12-1 run that gave the Boilermakers a 40-31 lead.

During this span, Duke turned the ball over on three consecutive trips down the court as Purdue pulled away.

A 3-point shot by Erickson and two strong post moves by VanGorp that led to easy baskets cut Purdue's lead to 42-38 with eight minutes to play.

But Douglas sank a 3-point basket from the wing that extended Purdue's lead to 7 points. Peppi Browne made one of two free throws, but Purdue's Camille Cooper converted a short jumper to increase its lead to 47-39 with 4:29 to play.

Portland Hangs On To Defeat Phoenix

The Associated Press

The Portland Trail Blazers blew a 21-point second-quarter lead but recovered to beat the Phoenix Suns on an inside basket by Arvydas Sabonis with 9.8 seconds left.

Sabonis had 18 points and 13 rebounds as Portland won, 88-86.

NBA ROUNDUP

Sunday night, Damoc Stoudamire finished with 18 points and 13 assists as the visiting Trail Blazers won their sixth straight game to improve to 23-5, the best record in the league.

Jason Kidd, the Phoenix guard, hit two free throws with 30.3 seconds left to tie the game at 86-86.

Then Jim Jackson missed an 18-footer for Portland, but teammate Brian Grant grabbed the rebound and started to go up for the shot before finding Sabonis alone underneath for the easy basket.

"I didn't have time to think too much," Sabonis said. "It was a good rebound. I got a good pass. I'm in a good position and I did it."

Lakers 99, Knicks 81 Kobe Bryant scored 29 points, and Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points and nine rebounds as the Lakers won a physical battle against the visiting Knicks.

Kurt Thomas and Chris Dandley of the Knicks were ejected and five technical fouls were called in the game.

Magic 94, Heat 87 Darrell Armstrong scored 19 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Magic to victory over the Miami Heat in Orlando.

Pistons 104, SuperSonics 87 Lindsey Hunter scored 20 points,

and Jerry Stackhouse and Bison Dele added 18 each for surging Detroit in a home game.

The Pistons have won five of six overall and 10 of their last 12 at home.

Pacers 101, Celtics 83 Chris Mullin scored all 16 of his points in the third quarter, and Larry Bird remained undefeated as a coach against his former team.

Mark Jackson added 15 points for the visiting Pacers, who are 6-0 against the Celtics since Bird became Indiana's coach.

Raptors 91, Bulls 78 Rookie Vince Carter had 22 points and six blocks as the Toronto extended its franchise-record home winning streak to six games.

The Bulls, who played without injured Toni Kukoc, lost their fourth straight.

Bucks 84, Timberwolves 85 Haywood Workman scored 19 points as the visiting Milwaukee Bucks beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, who missed their last 15 shots.

Sam Mitchell led the Timberwolves with 20 points, while Kevin Garnett finished with 16 points, 18 rebounds and nine assists.

Hornets 105, Cavaliers 84 Rookie reserve Brad Miller scored 24 points in Charlotte as the Hornets defeated Cleveland.

The Hornets trailed by nine at halftime but outscored the Cavaliers 32-10 in the third quarter to take command.

Rockets 107, Kings 93 Hakeem Olajuwon had 24 points and nine rebounds in Sacramento as Houston won its eighth straight game.

After sitting out the entire third quarter with a sore back, Charles Barkley scored 11 of his 15 points in the first 5:14 of the fourth quarter.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	20	9	.688	—
Indiana	19	10	.655	1
Philadelphia	15	13	.538	5
New York	14	14	.500	6
Washington	12	16	.431	8
Boston	9	18	.333	10
New Jersey	5	23	.179	15

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	20	9	.688	—
Atlanta	18	11	.621	2
Detroit	17	12	.588	3
Charlotte	14	12	.538	6
Cleveland	14	13	.519	7
Washington	12	16	.431	9
Charlotte	12	15	.444	10
Chicago	6	21	.279	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	21	7	.750	—
San Antonio	19	10	.655	2
Minnesota	16	13	.552	5
Dallas	10	20	.333	12
Denver	7	23	.233	15
Vancouver	5	23	.179	16

SEAWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	22	15	.595	—
Phoenix	21	16	.568	1
Sacramento	17	12	.588	3
Golden State	12	16	.429	7
LA Clippers	2	24	.111	19

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	21	14	.600	—
Minnesota	19	16	.543	2
Chicago	18	17	.512	3
Detroit	17	18	.486	4
Los Angeles	16	19	.457	5
San Diego	15	20	.431	6
California	14	21	.400	7
Texas	13	22	.370	8
Houston	12	23	.344	9
Seattle	11	24	.313	10

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	20	15	.571	—
Chicago	19	16	.543	1
Minnesota	18	17	.512	2
Detroit	17	18	.486	3
Los Angeles	16	19	.457	4
San Diego	15	20	.431	5
California	14	21	.400	6
Texas	13	22	.370	7
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NATIONAL LEAGUE

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	21	14	.600	—
Los Angeles	19	16	.543	2
Colorado	18	17	.512	3
Arizona	17	18	.486	4
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Colorado	18	17	.512	3
Arizona	17	18	.486	4
San Diego	16	19	.457	5
Florida	15	20	.431	6
Atlanta	14	21	.400	7
Philadelphia	13	22	.370	8
Pittsburgh	12	23	.344	9
St. Louis	11	24	.313	10

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	20	15	.571	—
Philadelphia	19	16	.543	1
St. Louis	18	17	.512	2</

ART BUCHWALD

Eye on the Dow

NEW YORK — The talk on the New York City cocktail party circuit has changed, thanks to the 10,000-Dow Jones whirling dervish.

In the past, the chatter among the affluent had to do with villas in East Hampton, yachts in Montecarlo and mountainside palaces in Aspen.

But people on Wall Street are now upgrading their conversations. I asked Schuler if he had bought anything lately.

"Yes," he said. "I just purchased a company in Cleveland."

Mrs. Freiback, standing with us, said: "We were going to buy a company in Cleveland, but we didn't like the winters. Harold decided to purchase a screwdriver factory in Mississippi. It has an ocean view."

"We're looking at a toaster company in New Mexico that

the Japanese are trying to sell for \$3 billion," Grumbach said. "It can park 500 employee cars."

The talk was heady, and I could tell everyone was trying to top everyone else.

Jason declared, "If everyone can keep it under his hat, we're going to merge with a waste disposal outfit in Hungary."

"I love Hungary," Mrs. Jason said. "It's so quiet there when the tourists go home."

I asked the host, "Is there anyone here who isn't merging or making an unfriendly bid on another company?"

He replied, "There doesn't seem to be anybody, except a brain surgeon and Norman Mailer."

"Don't you people care about beautiful homes in Palm Beach and owning islands in Greece?"

"We used to," Grumbach said, "but no one is impressed anymore. At least when you buy a company, people sit up and take notice, particularly if you tell them the size of your golden parachute."

Another Titanic Auction

The Associated Press

TACOMA, Washington — In yet another auction of items related to the Titanic, a boarding pass for the doomed liner is listed as the top item at a sale scheduled for the 87th anniversary of the start of the ship's voyage.

The rare document is an immigrant inspection card that was issued to Anna Sofia Sjöblom of Finland, who planned it to the inside of her jacket. The young woman survived the sinking and later settled in this northwestern U.S. city with her uncle, the jacket and inspection card intact. She died in 1975.

The document, sold about six months ago by a man identified only as the widower of Sjöblom's grandniece, will go on the block April 10 at Sanford and Son Antiques. The house expects it to bring at least \$5,000.

A postcard from the Titanic, never mailed by the teenager who wrote it, was sold for \$24,150 at auction in London last year. A White Star Line poster advertising the ship's return voyage from New York brought \$9,300. An original Titanic luncheon menu, pasted to the back of an oil painting of the ship, recently was appraised at \$75,000.

A Goldwyn Moves Up in the Family Business

By Sylviane Gold

NEW YORK — About five years ago, the actor Tony Goldwyn started getting restless. "I'd gotten to the point in my career where I knew I would get work — I knew the mortgage would get paid," he said.

His performance in the 1990 off-Broadway play "The Sum of Us" had put him on the New York theater map. The same year, his portrayal of the yuppie villain in "Ghost" had done the same in Hollywood. But he wanted more.

"As an actor," he said, "your involvement in the filmmaking process is limited: You show up, you make your contribution and you leave. I felt, 'Is this what I want from my life, just to be providing services?'"

His response was perhaps inevitable for the son of the movie producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr. and the grandson of the Hollywood legend Sam Goldwyn. He would find a script he wanted to act in and produce himself.

"Theo, if I'm in a big hit movie, and become financeable," he recalls thinking, "I'll say, 'Here's a script I've always wanted to do.'"

He saw it as something that might happen 10 years down the road. But it didn't turn out that way because of a script called "The Blouse Man."

Gray, who grew up in Brooklyn, based "The Blouse Man" on her memories of the Catskill Mountains in New York, where she spent summer vacations with her family. A California boy, Goldwyn knew nothing of the annual summer exodus that brought working-class Jewish families from New York City to "the mountains" during the 1940s, '50s and '60s. And he was only 9 during the summer of 1969, when Neil Armstrong planted his boots on the lunar surface and some 400,000 hippies turned a concert in upstate New York into a cultural watershed.

But he fell in love with Gray's story of Pearl Kantrowitz, a young Brooklyn mother, who is drawn into an affair when the spirit of Woodstock invades her Catskills bungalow colony.

"I really identified with that moment that usually happens to people in their early 30s," said Goldwyn, now 38. "You sud-



Tony Goldwyn, director of "A Walk on the Moon," at home in Connecticut.

denly see your life laid out in front of you. And you say, 'Is this the life I dreamed of having? Am I the person I wanted to become? If the answer's no, that's a very scary moment. And sometimes what it takes to deal with that is very risky: It requires shattering the status quo. And I thought the setting for Pearl's love affair, in 1969, was the perfect metaphor, because that's exactly what was happening to the country.'"

"A Walk on the Moon" re-creates the summer ritual of cars overflowing with bedding, suitcases and kitchenware heading north toward the low-rent cousins of fancy resorts like Kutsher's and the Nevele; loudspeakers announcing the arrival on the premises of the ice cream truck or the knish truck or the blouse truck; at fresco mahjong games during the day, third-rate comedians or old movies in the "casino" at night.

It's the man who sells the blouses, played by Viggo Mortensen, who disturbs the equilibrium of the Kantrowitz family: Diane Lane as Pearl, dimly aware that she has missed something; Liev Schreiber as her decent but dullish husband; Anna Paquin as their pinescent daughter, and Tovah

Feldshuh as Pearl's shrewd mother-in-law. "I'd always watched directors on all the films I've worked on and thought, 'I'm so glad that's not me,'" Goldwyn said. "I had tremendous admiration for directors, and I didn't know if I possessed the skills required. But it didn't seem like a lot of fun."

His plan was to produce the film and let someone else take on the "anxieties" of directing. He had been helping Gray refine the script. It was "never black and white," she said, "but he helped me put in more shades of gray." And he was wondering how on earth he would find a director who shared his passion for the story.

"When I decided to direct it," Goldwyn said, "I thought, 'O.K., this is going to be a war, and I'm just going to tough my way through it.'" One of its producers, Dustin Hoffman, also resorted to military imagery: Making a movie, he said by telephone, is like being in a foxhole. "And you want a director who makes you feel it's O.K. to get up and charge, but who helps you stay relaxed."

"Don't worry, you won't get killed." Just as Goldwyn ended up directing a film he had wanted to produce, Hoffman ended

up producing a film he had wanted to direct. He had read the screenplay and thought he might like to try his hand at directing it. When he found that Goldwyn had got there first, Hoffman and his production company joined the project as producers. "It was the next-best thing," he says.

The two actors had never met. But Hoffman said: "We hit it off right away. After a couple of conversations, we knew we were responding to the same things in the script. It's like a first date: You know pretty quickly if there's going to be a second."

Lane gives Goldwyn high marks for his "tenacity and follow-through." Speaking by phone from California, she said, "They ought to give Oscars to the people who get to the green light. That's a pure labor of love, because you never know if it's actually going to happen."

Hoffman's participation did more than just insure that "A Walk on the Moon" would happen, Goldwyn said. "What's so brilliant about Dustin," he said, "is that he's always looking for the possibilities, never saying, 'It's done.' And having a creative voice telling me, that made us a really good combination."

Goldwyn also got advice from his father, who had been encouraging him to direct. "You can do more than act," he would tell me," Goldwyn said. "And I'd go, 'Yeah. Pop, leave me alone.' But I think one of the things that led me to say, 'Yes, I should do this,' was that I'd heard it before."

Goldwyn's father admired Gray's script, but though he was encouraging, he couldn't quite understand why his son was so driven to make the film. When the elder Goldwyn saw a rough cut of "A Walk on the Moon," "He got it," his son recalled. "He said, 'I understand. You made a movie about love. And then he gave me lots of notes. I involved him a fair bit.'"

It was a oew element in their relationship, he said. "When I was starting out as an actor, we sort of had a rule: It was my thing. I didn't want his help, nor did he want to give it; nor could he have, really."

There are two more screenplays he has fallen in love with, and he and Hoffman are planning to work together again, with Goldwyn directing Hoffman as a Las Vegas choreographer. Directing doesn't scare him any more. "It was fun," he said.

Sylviane Gold, who reviews dance for Newsday and writes frequently about the arts, wrote this for The New York Times.

PEOPLE

IS the tenor Andrea Bocelli ready for the opera? "I don't feel I'm really credible enough yet," the Italian singer says. "I still have to suffer a little while longer." Bocelli's ballads have sold 20 million records worldwide and have earned a Grammy nomination. Last week, he sang a duet with Celine Dion at the Oscar ceremonies. Bocelli, who is blind, is scheduled to step from the confines of pop this autumn to make his U.S. opera debut at the Michigan Opera Theater in Detroit, singing the title role in Massenet's "Werther." If opera proves a comfortable fit, Bocelli says he wouldn't mind giving up his pop career.

Attorneys for the model Christie Brinkley have agreed to settle a lawsuit against an aircraft parts company stemming from a 1994 helicopter crash in Colorado. A district judge in Texas dismissed Brinkley's part of the suit last week. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed. In 1996, Brinkley and others sued American Eurocopter, a parts supplier in Grand Prairie, Texas, alleging

negligence in a mountain helicopter crash in which Brinkley was injured. The company cited a National Transportation Safety Board ruling that bad weather and pilot error caused the crash.

Saxophones wailed and trumpets blared as a sculpture of the jazz legend Charlie (Bird) Parker was unveiled in Kansas City, Missouri, his hometown. Hundreds gathered in the historic 18th and Vine Jazz District, where Parker once played with such greats as Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie, and Parker's former wife, Doris, and his daughter, Kim, were on hand as the bronze sculpture of Parker's head was unveiled, with the words "Bird Lives" at its base.

Liam Gallagher, the bad-boy lead singer of Oasis, and his pregnant wife, the actress Patsy Kensit, were shaken up when British soccer bootleggers threw a brick through the window of their car, newspapers reported Monday. Galla-

gher told The Sun of the attack in the Marylebone area of London before a match between England and Poland.

Dame Judi Dench's busy calendar is getting fuller. Besides March 21 (accept Academy Award for best supporting

actress) and April 3 (open at the Barrymore Theater in New York in David Hare's "Army's View"), there is May 17 (accept the Shakespeare Guild's Gielgud Award for Excellence in Dramatic Arts at the Barrymore). The presentation will be made by last year's recipient, Zoe Caldwell.

Duchess of York Hears a Swiss Siren Call

Reuters

LONDON — The Duchess of York is considering moving from Britain to Switzerland to save thousands of pounds in taxes, the Mirror newspaper reported Monday.

The tabloid quoted friends of Sarah Ferguson, who was divorced from Queen Elizabeth's second son, Prince Andrew, in 1992, as saying that moving abroad was her only option after Buckingham Palace declined to come up with more child support for her daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie.

The two girls, 10 and 9, have been registered to attend Aiglon College in the Swiss alpine resort of Villars next year, but they have also been registered at two boarding schools in England, the newspaper continued.

The duchess, popularly known as Fergie, burst onto the royal scene in 1986 as a woman determined to live life to the full. When her marriage collapsed, many supporters of the royal family could barely conceal their relief at her departure.



FINITO — Some of the 2,500 young violinists playing in the 45th Suzuki Method concert in Tokyo as part of the graduation ceremonies.



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